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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

On a scale of 1 to 5, with 5 being the highest, how would you rate the CNMI government's compliance with the Open Government Act?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

Flu Spike

Mexico's top medical officer voiced optimism that swine flu has slowed in the nation hardest hit by the virus.

WORLD...Page 11

Inspiration

Dionisia Pacquiao finally came to the United States with her son Manny for one of his mega-fights.

MAHARLIKA...Page 13

Divorce

Sean Penn and Robin Wright tried to make it work but it seems their marriage might be over for good.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 20

Inos sworn in as lt. governor

By KRISTI EATON
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REPORTER

CNMI history was made yesterday, as Eloy Inos became the Commonwealth's first appointed lieutenant governor.

The Senate unanimously confirmed Inos as the Northern Marianas' second-in-command at a special session attended by community members and many past and present government officials.

Less than an hour later, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial swore in Inos at the Office of the Governor's conference room in the presence of Inos' family members and acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for the U.S. Interior's Office of Insular Affairs Nikolau Pula.

More than 50 people watched as the

See INOS on Page 4

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, left, swears in Eloy Inos, right, as the first non-elected lieutenant governor of the CNMI less than an hour after the Senate confirmed his appointment yesterday on Capital Hill. Holding the Bible is Inos's daughter, Laura I. Guerrero. Other picture shows Fitial and Inos of the Covenant Party joining current and former lawmakers from the Republican and Democratic Parties and independents right after the Senate confirmed Inos' appointment. Inos replaced Timothy P. Villagomez who resigned after he was found guilty of corruption charges.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Hung jury, mistrial in Pelisamen's case

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

After a little over two days of deliberations, a hung jury forced U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex R. Munson to declare a mistrial around 4:30pm yesterday in the case of former Kaipat estate administrator Luis Kaipat Pelisamen.

Pelisamen is facing charges of com-

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JAL resumes charter flights to Saipan

'Northwest, Asiana to increase seats during Golden Week'

BY MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Japan Airlines has resumed its charter flights to Saipan and brought in last Monday the first charter flight scheduled beginning this month, according to Commonwealth Ports Authority executive director Efrain F. Camacho.

Camacho

Camacho disclosed yesterday that the JAL flight that arrived on April 27 was a B-747 with an estimated capacity of 400 passengers.

The airline company, Camacho said, confirmed with CPA four more charter flight schedules, using the same aircraft. These flights are expected to come in anytime this week.

See JAL on Page 4

CUC EMERGENCY EXTENDED ANEW

By KRISTI EATON
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REPORTER

In his latest extension of a state of disaster emergency for the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., Gov. Benigno Fitial said the Office of the Governor has been unable to find qualified candidates to hold positions on the CUC

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FAA exec: CPA now in the right direction. PAGE 3
DPH urges limiting large social gatherings. PAGE 5

Local

Ticket sales for Pacquiao-Hatton broadcast at World Resort falter

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

Compared to the previous pay-per-view live feed, ticket sales for Sunday's Manny Pacquiao-Ricky Hatton fight at the Saipan World Resort are going at a slower pace this time.

MCV Broadband and hotel management said this could be attributed to several factors like the timing of government payday, the magic of Oscar De La Hoya's popularity and the global economic crisis.

MCV Broadband's Mark Birmingham said that during the Pacquiao-De La Hoya fight in December last year, tickets were already sold out days before fight day. There were about 500 who came out to watch that fight.

This time, MCV has come out with 600 tickets.

"The sales are low this time compared to the last fight but we're still hoping that fans will turn out at the doors on Sunday," said Birmingham.

The live feed at the huge screen of the Taga Hall for general admission and at the Red Box Sports Bar for VIP will begin around 10:30am with the undercard fights.

The main event will be around 3pm (Saipan time) in Las Vegas.

The price for general admission is $30 and $50 for VIP.

Ronald Sanchez, Saipan World Resort's Banquet and Restaurant Manager, said they have already sold about 90 percent of the tickets for the VIP Room at the Red Box while only 50 percent for tickets for general admission.

Sanchez said the reason for low sales this time is that it's not government payday yet.

It would be the seventh pay per view live for MCV Broadband at the hotel and Birmingham assured that the satellite feed would be excellent.

He said they don't want the people's ire to turn on them in case of a poor satellite feed during the fight.

MCV will have a dry run today and early tomorrow morning featuring programs of the Philippines giant television network GMA Channel 7.

"It will be pretty fun," Birmingham said.

He said they expect sponsor Budweiser to give the crowd something to cheer about.

"We can assure that everybody will have a good time," he said.

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CNMI Public Safety Commissioner Santiago Tudela, center, shakes hands with U.S. Army Col. Joh Lee, second right, after signing a memorandum of agreement for the U.S. Army to build new facilities and improve existing ones at the Marpi range in San Juan, Marpi. In photo, from left, are former CNMI Judge Edward Manibusan who is the CNMI civilian aide to the secretary of the Army, CNMI Range Master Ambrosio T. Ogumoro, Tudela, Lee, and Brigadier General John Ma.

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FAA exec: CPA now in the right direction

BY MONETH G. DEPOSA
Moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

After seeing all the work being done at the Saipan International Airport, a visiting Federal Aviation Administration official says the current management and board of directors of the Commonwealth Ports Authority are now moving in the right direction.

Mark McClardy, FAA manager for airport division for the Western Pacific, said that FAA is very pleased to see the improvements and "progress" shown by CPA, particularly in complying with requirements and standards.

McClardy inspected the airport Thursday and joined the board in its meeting.

Last year, CPA was placed on a state of emergency due to the "inaction" of the board on matters relating to the seaport and airport bond indenture agreements.

The Executive Branch appointed a new board, headed by Joe Lifoifoi, with the main task of addressing the bond indenture problems.

"Going back to where CPA was in September last year… there were a lot of unanswered questions from the board. But now, FAA is very pleased with the direction shown by the new board in terms of compliance," McClardy told *Saipan Tribune* Thursday.

The agency, he added, not merely showed progress in dealing with the bond indenture problem but also a positive change in its operation and financial status.

McClardy said the FAA ranked the generator project as the main issue that concerned them the most in the past.

"That's FAA main concern and they have addressed that. We commend the board's and management's effort in prioritizing the generator at the international airport because it's for everyone's safety," he said.

It will be recalled that hundreds of tourists and passengers were stranded on several occasions at the airport because their flights were delayed due to rampant power outages on island. CPA then has been operating without any generator to back up operations during outages. Its two main backup generators were both down and needed to be repaired.

McClardy said that operating an airport without a backup generator is a clear violation of FAA rules and standards.

CPA was able to complete the repair of its two main generators with the help of FAA. The federal agency had also provided a grant for the purchase of a new generator for the Saipan airport.

McClardy assured the board Thursday that FAA will continue to assist and support CPA in ensuring the safety of CNMI airports.

The official also formally notified the ports management of its removal from "high-risk status" to "moderate."

"I am pretty sure it will soon be removed when CPA goes back to business as usual," McClardy said.

He said FAA is waiting for the completion of the agency's cost allocation plan—a requirement that will totally remove the risk status of CPA. "We're very confident that CPA can address it," the FAA official said.

'Airport projects on schedule'

CPA executive director Efrain F. Camacho on Thursday reported to the board that major airport projects are moving on schedule and progressing.

At the Saipan International Airport, the new baggage handling system is being tested and several meetings were held for its upcoming certification by the Transportation Security Aviation.

The project, the completion of which had been delayed for many years, is needed to expedite processing at the airport check-in counters as baggage would pass through the equipment. CPA recently spent close to $1 million to replace/repair a spare part of the system.

Camacho said the generator project is also still on schedule as completion is set for late this year for phase 1 and early 2010 for phase 2.

"A design contract for the generator building renovation is being finalized now. Also, preventive maintenance and operation agreement will be implemented," the executive director said.

The airport temporary runway, he added, is set for operation early next year.

CPA is also working on installing a new public address system for the airport, also funded by the FAA.

Fiji military leader says no elections for 5 years

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—Fiji's military ruler defied international pressure to announce elections by Friday, confirming that he would not hold them for at least five years and setting the stage for his country's ouster from a South Pacific bloc.

Bainimarama

"I think we made it quite clear that is not going to happen," military chief Commodore Frank Bainimarama told Australia's Sky News television in an interview broadcast Friday. "There will be no elections until September 2014," he added.

Bainimarama ousted the ethnic Fijian-dominated government in a 2006 coup and installed himself as prime minister. He has vowed to rewrite the constitution and electoral laws to remove what he says is discrimination against the country's large ethnic Indian minority before holding elections. Critics say he shows little sign of being willing to give up power.

The Pacific Islands Forum, a key 16-nation bloc that includes Australia and New Zealand, had given Fiji until Friday to announce elections for 2009 or be suspended from the group. New Zealand Foreign Minister Murray McCully said there would be "an immediate trigger" for Fiji's suspension once the deadline passed at the end of the day.

Under the suspension, Fiji would be barred from all the forum's meetings and lose out on development funding until a democratic government is restored.

"You've got a dictator up there now who doesn't want to listen to anybody else other than himself," New Zealand Prime Minister John Key told Radio Dunedin on Friday, ramping up his rhetoric against the regime.

"My view is that they will be automatically suspended from the forum and I think you may see similar reaction from other bodies like the Commonwealth," he added, referring to a group of 53 countries that are mostly former British colonies.

Fiji President Ratu Josefa Iloilo announced in early April that elections would be delayed until 2014. At the same time, he suspended the national constitution and fired judges who had declared the military government illegal. Emergency laws were also imposed on the media to curb expressions of dissent.

Bainimarama said Friday that the censorship laws would be extended when they expire later this month.

"We want this calm to continue for a while," Bainimarama said. "It's irresponsible reporting that undermines" calm.

Bainimarama said within two weeks he would announce a five-year timetable for reforms leading to the 2014 elections.

"We have to get rid of racism in the country in the next five years," he said, referring to the long-standing conflicts between indigenous Fijians and ethnic Indians. Bainimarama is an indigenous Fijian.

He also called for Australia and New Zealand to be expelled from the Pacific Islands Forum, saying the were putting undue "pressure on the Pacific Islands and that's not how we operate."

McCully said Thursday that foreign aid to the impoverished country had already slowed, and the European Union had frozen hundreds of millions of dollars in funding to help restructure Fiji's sugar industry, a key export income earner for the severely weakened economy.

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OIA's Pula follows up on Saipan power situation

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for the U.S. Interior's Office of Insular Affairs Nikolau Pula is on island to follow up on Saipan's power situation and the status of OIA-funded capital improvement projects, among other things.

"I want to follow up on the power situation because when I was here the last time we wanted to work with the CNMI regarding the power situation and I just want to come back now to follow up on it and see how it's going to go. I know Aggreko is leaving and I want to see how that progress is going forward," Pula told reporters in an interview in the Governor's Conference Room on Capital Hill after the swearing in of Eloy Inos as the first non-elected CNMI lieutenant governor.

Pula, who visited Hawaii prior to arriving on Saipan, is also meeting with the governor and members of the Legislature.

He said the good thing is that he has not heard a lot of recent complaints about Saipan's power situation unlike his prior visit when outages were rampant.

"Obviously, some things are doing okay but I also know that there's a lot of work that need to be done so I want to follow up with the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. and the folks here what the status of that is and what's going to happen in the next six months based on that," Pula added.

In September, Pula was on island to meet with local leaders about the electrical power situation and how the Interior Department can help. He said discussions will focus on the CNMI's resources and its long-term plans for the power system.

Just dropping by

Pula said he was in a meeting yesterday morning when he was informed about Inos' swearing in. He said he dropped by to congratulate Inos.

"It's unfortunate…the circumstances of the former lieutenant governor but that's the way in any community with a democratic process. People take over [during] situations when things are not going well…I congratulate the new lieutenant governor," he said.

Pula said he heard from a long time ago of Inos' competence as a financial expert.

Rota student named Gates Millennium scholar

BY MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

A student from Rota has been named as one of this year's recipients of the prestigious Gates Millennium Scholarship that entitles her to a full academic scholarship throughout college.

Bernadita Ann Atalig Manglona, currently a senior student at Academy of Our Lady of Guam, was notified April 15 by the Asian & Pacific Islander American Scholarship Fund about her inclusion on the list.

Saipan Tribune learned that Manglona finished her kindergarten at Rota's Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja and then transferred to Guam for her elementary and high school.

She is the daughter of Vincent and Benita Manglona.

Bernadita, 18, wants to pursue college at the University of Washington.

"It's her dream to become a dentist…and she's determined to get it," her proud mother said.

Bernadita is also an active member of school organizations and a participant in a number of community events and programs.

"She's not only academically-inclined…but very much involved in sports activities too," the mother said, adding that her daughter was recently named the school's most valuable player in paddling.

Manglona

Saipan Tribune learned that the student was also among the delegates in last year's World Youth Day celebration in Australia.

"The family is very proud of her. We've seen her hard work for the last four years and she deserves this achievement," the mother added.

According to Neil Horikoshi, president and executive director of the scholarship fund, the Gates Millennium Scholars Program attracted over 20,500 applicants this year.

"It is a distinct honor for you to be recognized as one of the 1,000 Gates Millennium Scholars for the GSM class of 2009," he told Manglona in his congratulatory message.

He disclosed that this is the program's 10th anniversary class.

Horikoshi commended the student from Rota for her strong leadership, community service, and academic achievements that have distinguished her as a "Leader for America's Future."

As a Gates Millennium scholar, funds are available for Manglona's college education at any U.S. accredited college or university of her choice.

The scholarship is a renewable scholarship based on program guidelines.

EMERGENCY

From Page 1

board of directors.

Under Public Law 16-17, the board is meant to oversee CUC's activities. However, Fitial wrote in his declaration, qualified candidates are unavailable, and therefore, the governor gave full authority to CUC executive director Antonio Muña.

The act is necessary, as CUC must continue to function, the governor said. Key to CUC is bringing the utility agency back to solvency. CUC has been insolvent because it owes the Commonwealth Development Authority approximately $115 million from a loan several years ago.

Both CUC and CDA have come to terms and agreed to convert the debt to stock, but CDA requires CUC's board to approve the transaction, Fitial noted.

"Therefore, it is critical that CUC be able to sign the deal with the authority of a board. My directive provides such authority to the executive director," the governor wrote. "It also permits him to continue to run CUC, providing power, water and wastewater services, until the remaining members of a board can be identified, confirmed, and convened for business."

The executive order, the 10th straight for CUC, lists many of the same reasons and directives as in previous orders, although the most recent includes some of the improvements CUC has been able to achieve recently.

Fitial said engine 7 at Power Plant 1 has been restored and CUC officials have identified 16 potential employees—seven mechanics, one welder, one machinist and seven operators. A major challenge for the utility company, Fitial said, was finding eight more mechanics and eight more operators, something Muña earlier said was necessary in order to repair the necessary engines.

However, of the 16 potential employees, only a few are U.S. citizens. PL 16-14 prohibits CUC from hiring anymore non-U.S. citizens besides the 19 presently employed with CUC.

"CUC plans to ask the Legislature for relief from this statute regulating the government's workforce," Fitial said. "In the meantime, CUC is concerned that any significant reduction in its present technical workforce, as by the feared swine flu pandemic, could seriously compromise CUC's ability to generate and distribute power."

The emergency declaration lasts 30 days.

The administration has said the executive orders will last at least through September, when the contract for the emergency generators concludes. The continuous declarations have allowed CUC to operate the generators despite bypassing procurement regulations.

Last month, Muña said he believes the executive orders will continue past September, because some of the issues relate to ongoing problems with the water and wastewater divisions of CUC.

JAL

From Page 1

JAL pulled out regular operations in the CNMI in October 2005 after posting millions of dollars in losses. The move instantly resulted in a significant drop in Japanese arrivals to the CNMI, hurting the islands' tourism industry.

On top of the JAL charters, Camacho said that CPA is anticipating additional charters from signatory airlines Delta/Northwest and Asiana Airlines.

The additional flights, he said, are slated for the Golden Week celebration in Japan.

"Golden Week" is one of Japan's longest and busiest holidays, spanning a one-week period from April 29 up to May 5. It is an ideal time for the Japanese to travel.

"Several charter flights from China are also being planned and are scheduled toward June," Camacho said.

Last week, Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino confirmed reviving its Guangzhou flights from China after it suspended the market in September 2008.

Camacho, however, said that while all these marks an increase in traffic at the airport, revenue versus operating cost is still a concern for CPA, particularly when Rota and Tinian operations are factored in.

Just recently, Taga Air was replaced by Star Marianas.

"It is a charter operation, at least for now, but it is looking at eventually providing scheduled flights between Saipan and Tinian. This will improve air traffic between Saipan and Tinian," Camacho said.

HUNG

From Page 1

mitting wire fraud, wire fraud and money laundering after he was arrested by the Federal Bureau of Investigation in January 2008.

Defense attorney Douglas Cushnie told *Saipan Tribune* that Pelisamen is a fairly calm person and accepted the declaration of mistrial.

"The jury was deadlocked and they couldn't agree [on a verdict]…Certainly, my client is not interested in going through the same process. He's not looking forward to that but we'll continue with the process," Cushnie said.

The jury, which consisted of 12 jurors plus two alternates, started deliberation on Wednesday.

Munson has set a new trial for June 15, when a new jury selection takes place, according to the U.S. District for the NMI office.

Pelisamen's jury trial began in federal court on Monday. Munson completed the jury selection in the morning. In the afternoon, Assistant U.S. Attorney Kirk Schuler conducted the opening arguments for the U.S. government, while Cushnie did the opening arguments for Pelisamen.

Pelisamen was appointed administrator of the Kaipat estate on Sept. 27, 2005. Lawyer Joseph Arriola served as Pelisamen's counsel in that probate. Pelisamen and Arriola were accused of drafting 66 checks amounting to $219,000 payable to both of them.

Then Superior Court Associate Judge Lizama kicked out Pelisamen and Arriola from the estate after finding that some money in the estate were missing.

According to the indictment, Arriola and Pelisamen transferred money amounting to $1,377,058.39 belonging to the Kaipat estate from the Bank of Guam to the Bank of Hawaii on Nov. 28, 2005, thereby causing communications by wire between Saipan and Hawaii.

The declaration of mistrial in the Pelisamen case happened exactly a week after another federal jury issued a guilty verdict on former Timothy P. Villagomez of charges relating to a scheme to defraud the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. through needless purchases of a de-scaling chemical called Rydlyme. Villagomez resigned from his position of lieutenant governor.

INOS

From Page 1

nine Senate members cast their votes in support of Inos, who, until yesterday, held the position of Finance Secretary.

Gov. Benigno Fitial appointed Inos to the position on Monday. Under the Constitution, the Senate was required to confirm the appointment.

The position of lieutenant governor became vacant this week when Timothy P. Villagomez resigned from the office last Saturday, after he was found guilty of charges relating to a scheme to defraud the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

In his statement before the Senate, Inos said the process of appointing and confirming him as lieutenant governor demonstrates that self-government works.

"We can quickly fill this constitutional void," he said. "Our democracy works. Our Constitution works. We are a community of laws and those laws will be honored and respected," he said.

After his confirmation, Inos, who is running as lieutenant governor with Fitial in November's election, said the event was a major milestone and a difficult situation, but "I'm willing to work."

Many past and present legislators showed their support for Inos' confirmation during the public comment portion of the hearing. All who spoke supported his confirmation.

Former House Speaker Pedro R. Guerrero said he worked with Inos during the 702 and 902 Covenant negotiations and Inos helped bring in millions of dollars to the CNMI.

Rep. Oscar Babauta also recounted his time working with Inos during the Trust Territory period. He asked Senate members to confirm the former Finance secretary as a way for the Commonwealth to move forward.

"The community needs to move forward. We are in a predicament that needs the guidance of Mr. Inos," he said.

Sen. Maria Pangelinan, in her remarks to Inos, said she hopes the new lieutenant governor will focus on filling the position of Attorney General, noting that the Office of the Attorney General has had an acting AG for the last eight months.

"I really believe that office needs leadership," she said, adding that that is a concern of hers and the public.

Like the position of lieutenant governor, the position of Attorney General is mandated by the Constitution to be filled, she added.

Also, Sen. Jude Hofschneider asked Inos to continue the dialogue with the Retirement Fund, which has been at odds with the Fitial administration over unpaid employer contributions.

Not only is Inos' confirmation historical as he is the first appointed lieutenant governor, but also because all political parties are showing their support for him, Senate President Pete Reyes noted.

"Never have I seen such enormous support for the present position of Mr. Inos," the Senate president said.

Fitial echoed this statement, saying he is proud the community came out to show their support.

Robert Schrack, previously the special assistant to the Finance Secretary, is now acting Finance Secretary.

AS PRECAUTION AGAINST SWINE FLU VIRUS

DPH urges limiting large social gatherings

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

In the wake of the swine flu threat, the Department of Public Health is advising the public to limit for the meantime the staging of large social gatherings.

It said the chances of people getting infected by any virus—not only swine flu—increases whenever they attend large social gatherings.

The World Health Organization raised yesterday the pandemic alert level from Phase 4 to Phase 5 due to the growing number of infected people across the United States and worldwide.

In response, DPH said it is ready to combat the threat. DPH said it annually tests its pandemic flu response plan and is now putting it into play.

The plan includes, among other things, increased surveillance, alerting all medical providers, promoting flu prevention, and working with the entire community.

The agency assured that it regularly receives updates from the Centers for Disease Control and is working with public and private health agencies to monitor the situation.

Although there are no cases of swine flu in the CNMI yet, DPH Secretary Kevin Villagomez assured DPH is ready to respond to an outbreak if necessary.

"However, we encourage the public to take proactive steps by staying home from work or school when they're sick, avoiding close contact with people who are sick, and practicing basic hygiene like washing hands often and covering one's mouth when coughing or sneezing," he said.

The public is also warned to avoid close contact with people who are sick. It advised that when one is sick he/she must keep a distance from others to protect them from getting infected.

DPH said that germs are often spread when a person touches something that is contaminated and then touches his or her eyes, nose, or mouth.

"Athough the annual flu shot won't protect you from getting the swine flu, getting one will prevent you from getting the seasonal flu," DPH said.

The following are some of the basice information about the swine flu virus provided by DPH:

■ Swine Influenza or Flu (H1N1) is a respiratory disease of pigs caused by a flu virus that causes the flu in pigs.

■ The virus usually do not infect humans. Infections happen mainly in persons with direct exposure to pigs. The infection can then be passed person to person.

■ The virus is spread the same way that seasonal flu spreads mainly from person to person through coughing or sneezing of people with the flu. People can also become infected by touching something with flu viruses on it and then touching their mouth or nose.

■ The symptoms of swine flu in people are expected to be similar to the symptoms of regular seasonal flu and include high fever (100°F/73.8°C), coughing, runny nose, sore throat, nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea.

■ Eating properly handled cooked pork and pork products is safe.

■ Identifying the swine flu virus requires laboratory testing of an ill person's respiratory secretions.

■ There are four different antiviral drugs that are licensed for use in the US for the treatment of influenza: amantadine, rimantadine, oseltamivir and zanamivir. CDC recommends the use of oseltamivir or zanamivir for the treatment and/or prevention of infection with these swine flu viruses.

■ People that are sick with the swine flu are contagious as long as they have symptoms and possibly for up to seven days following illness onset.

Should the public have any questions or concerns regarding the swine flu, they should contact DPH at 236-8799/8797 or visit www.cdc.gov/swineflu.

Defunct Tinian company owes CHC over $33,000

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A Tinian dive shop and its officers shut down their business and left the CNMI without paying the Commonwealth Health Center $33,334.27 in outstanding medical bills by its employee who was treated for about two months after he was assaulted during off hours in March 2008.

The Department of Labor found Xuan Corp., its president treasurer Xuan Haojun and vice president Kwon Soon Young to be in default after failing to appear at an April 7, 2009 hearing.

Labor hearing officer Jerry Cody, in an April 14, 2009 administrative order, awarded nonresident worker Cui Jingzhu $4,944.66 in unpaid wages for work not provided by Xuan Corp. between June and December 2008.

Cody, however, said there's no liquidated damages awarded for this claim.

Xuan Corp. employed Cui on Tinian to work as a commercial cleaner under a work permit that expired on Dec. 26, 2008. He began to work for the company in January 2008, until March 2008 when he was assaulted during off hours. Cui was hospitalized at CHC on Saipan with a head injury from March until May 15, 2008.

In his labor complaint, Cui said after he was released from CHC and returned to his employer, the employer did not provide him with work in violation of the contract.

Cody also ordered Xuan Corp. and its officers to pay CHC $33,334.27 for unpaid medical expenses incurred by the worker during his employment for which the employer or its surety remains responsible.

Because the complainant worker has not sought a job transfer, he shall be repatriated at the expense of the latest employer of record, which is Xuan Corp. or its surety.

Pursuant to Bond 44510, Royal Crown Insurance Corp. may be held responsible for the wage award and medical expenses to the limits of the bond, plus a repatriation ticket, if respondent fails to pay the award and deliver the airline ticket to the Labor Hearing Office within 10 days of the order's date of the issuance.

Xuan Corp. and its officers are also permanently disqualified from employing foreign workers in the CNMI.

Brutus magazine seeks Saipan appeal for cartoon magazines

The trend of shooting cover models on Saipan for Japanese youth cartoon magazines is the subject of inquiry by *Brutus*, a high-class fashion and lifestyle magazine for trend-conscious males in Japan.

A six-member team of *Brutus* visited Saipan in April 2009 to prepare for the May 2009 edition of the magazine, focusing on Japanese youth cartoon magazines. In the six-page coverage, *Brutus* will analyze the magazine genre's cover page and introduce Saipan as a famous location for shooting those covers.

Japanese youth cartoon magazines often feature a young female model on their cover with a 4-5 page introduction. Many of these cover models go on to become famous models or actresses.

"The editor of *Brutus* wanted to research why this classic format has continued for such a long time, and why Saipan has been so popular place for shooting these covers," said Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio. "Also, the magazine article will introduce Saipan as a tourist destination."

MVA assisted the magazine with shooting permits and hotel accommodations. The approximate ad exposure value is $120,000.

Brutus is published monthly by Magazine House and has a circulation of 88,543, targeting males in their 20s to 40s. ***(MVA)***

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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EDITORIAL

No more bribes

North Korea's campaign to win attention and favors from the Obama administration continues to escalate. Over the weekend the regime announced that it had resumed the reprocessing of plutonium for nuclear weapons at its Yongbyon nuclear facility, having previously ejected U.N. inspectors. Quite possibly the claim was false: Experts estimate that it would take months at least to restart the reprocessing facility, and up to a year to turn on the main reactor. In any case, North Korea's capacity to add to its current arsenal of half a dozen bombs is limited—perhaps one warhead a year.

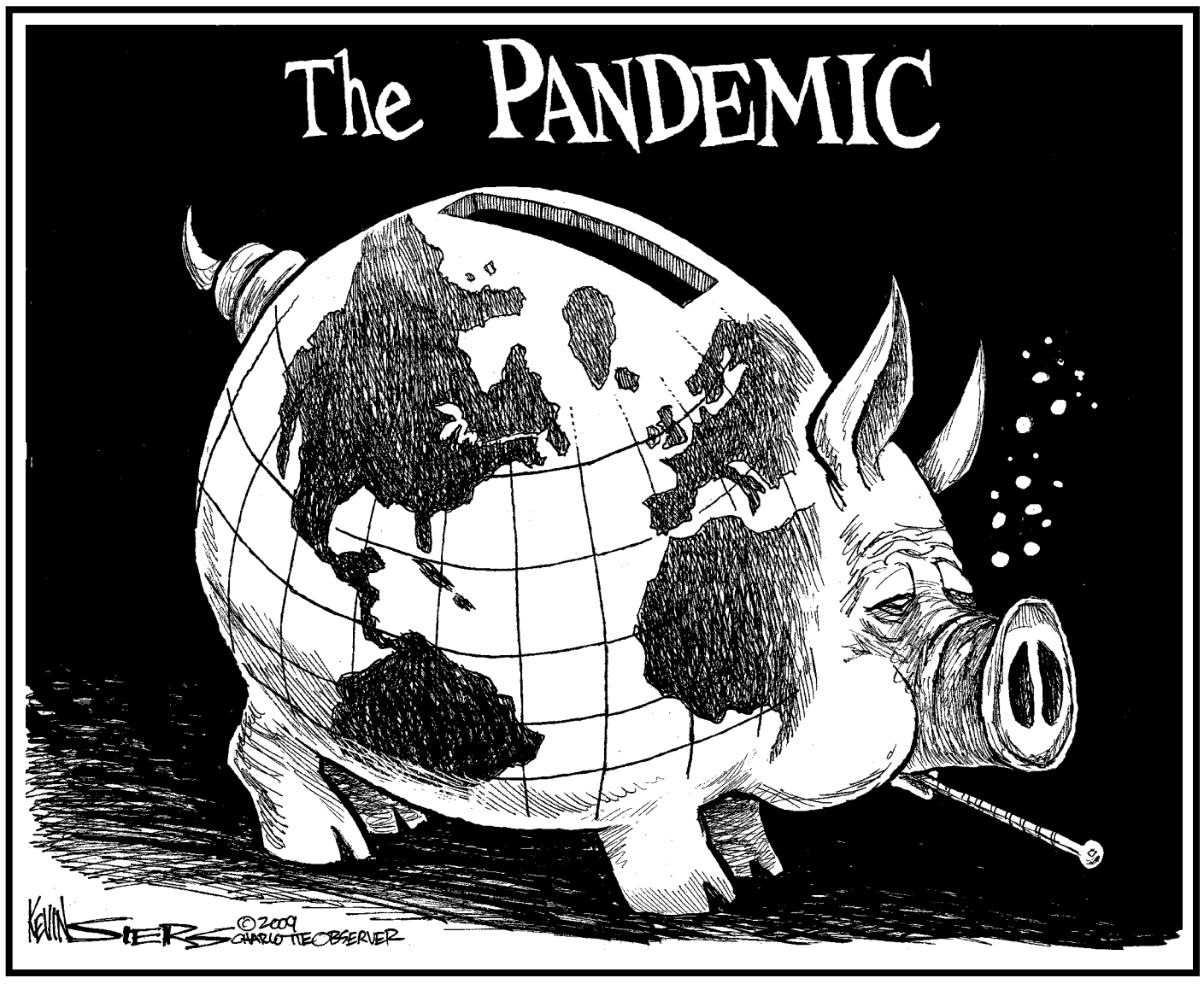
Probably that's why the regime further upped the ante by declaring that two American journalists it is holding would be put on trial. The two women, Laura Ling and Euna Lee, were arrested March 17 along North Korea's border with China, most likely on the Chinese side. Working for San Francisco-based Current TV, they were investigating the issue of North Korean refugees in China—including the underreported scandal of the trafficking of North Korean women. No doubt Pyongyang realizes that live hostages are better than a crumbling nuclear facility; it surely took note when Iran, which has received loads of attention from the new American president, put American journalist Roxana Saberi on trial this month.

While experts endlessly debate Iran's intentions, those of dictator Kim Jong Il aren't hard to figure. He would like the Obama administration to engage his regime in bilateral talks—excluding South Korea, Japan and other U.S. partners—and then offer it economic and political bribes in exchange for North Korea releasing the U.S. hostages and shutting down Yongbyon again. Mr. Kim has already succeeded in selling a Yongbyon closure to two U.S. presidents, Bill Clinton and George W. Bush; why not, he must reason, try for a three-peat? Unfortunately, the Obama administration's part-time envoy for North Korea, Stephen W. Bosworth, has already signaled that Pyongyang's crude strategy might work by publicly offering bilateral talks along with "incentives" and by suggesting that the six-party negotiations including U.S. allies will be downgraded.

The Obama administration must do whatever it can to free the American journalists. But caving to Mr. Kim—again—would be foolish. A better response would be to restore and improve on the financial sanctions built by the Bush administration, while encouraging South Korea to join multilateral efforts to stop North Korea's illegal arms trafficking. China, which has more leverage than does the United States, should be enlisted to apply a squeeze, as it has in the past. Refugees in northern China should be helped. Meanwhile North Korea should be encouraged to return to the six-party talks—where its extortion gambit is far harder to pull off.

In short, the administration should make clear that it feels no urgency to respond to Pyongyang's provocations. "We have to be strong, patient and consistent and not give in to ... the unpredictable behavior of the North Korean regime," Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton told Congress last week. The weekend's events shouldn't change that position.

(c) 2009, The Washington Post



Fear not! A Protestant Sabbath at Riverside

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune*'s Opinion Section.*

If there is a "Vatican" to American Protestants, that would be at 475 Riverside Dr. in New York City. There is no pope but it is the headquarters of the National Council of Churches USA. The National Council of Churches encompasses a wide spectrum of American Christianity—from Protestant, Orthodox, Evangelical, Anglican, and African-American, to historic peace churches and ethnic-language immigrant churches. They include 100,000-some local congregations and 45 million persons in the United States.

The place is next door to the interdenominational Union Theological Seminary whose existentialist faculty members spearheaded an enlightened theological reformation within the American Protestant Churches after World War II, indirectly influencing the Vatican II conclave.

Across the street is also the Riverside Church, endowed by John D. Rockefeller Jr. and founded by outspoken Harry Emerson Fosdick. Among its senior ministers was a Baptist Scot, Robert McCracken, followed by Ernest T. Campbell of the pastoral counseling fame, then the anti-Vietnam War activist and former chaplain of Yale University, William Sloan Coffin Jr., and recently, an African-American Baptist scholar, James Forbes Jr.

Last Sunday, the Riverside Church installed its 6th Senior Pastor, Dr. Brad Braxton, a 40-year-old spirited biblical scholar with the physical stature of Mahatma Gandhi, the eloquence of MLK Jr., and the dogged activism of William Coffin Sloane Jr. The occasion was plagued by internal dissension over remuneration, though my first impression from the discordant behavior of two members when I attended the Sunday morning worship service indicated to me overtones of personal intolerance, if not outright racial discrimination.

The Riverside Church is officially affiliated with the American Baptist Convention and the United Church of Christ USA, both congregational in polity structure (pastors are called rather than sent, the difference between Saipan Community Church and the CK Cathedral) with the UCC more open and transparent in its decision making process than the Baptist. Dr. Braxton comes from the Baptist tradition that tends to be more selectively oligarchic rather than openly democratic. The current brouhaha is a cry for more transparency on finances that unfortunately stepped outside the consultative and councilar in-house processes of the Church. Canon law has moved to civil law. The local judge sent the matter back to the Council to a scheduled congregational deliberation May 3.

Our interest, however, is not on the ecclesiastical wrangling but on the relevant message from the pulpit last Sunday. "FEAR NOT!" thundered the preacher echoing the witness of the prophet Isaiah of old to the quivering assemblies paralyzed by fear by the rivers of Babylon.

The fires heating up the contemporary malaise of fear in America eloquently encapsulated by the grief and memorial ambience of ground zero at the south end of Manhattan, is stoked by the media at any whiff of a controversy and/or a crisis.

The recognition, for instance, by the government of President Zardari of the preponderance of Taliban influence in the northwest section of Pakistan and the concurrent peace talks has sent U.S. military advisers into fits of heightened frenzy as if the Talibans are about to descend down the Indus Valley to Karachi, as well as engulf the tri-state administration of Iran, Afghanistan and Pakistan. President Obama's Pentagon has already conceded additional troops to Afghanistan, presumably, to allay right-wing anxieties over alleged display of weakness with the determined withdrawal from Iraq. Now the fearful public is now being played to think that the barbaric Talibans' threat is imminent and ascending!

This frayed communal nerve was demonstrated in last Monday morning's photo-op taken by Air Force One when it flew with fighter jet escorts over Manhattan, sending skyscraper denizens out into the streets for fear that the flying giant was out to disrupt morning coffee. No less than City Mayor Bloomberg showed more than bureaucratic chagrin over the White House *faux pas* in failing to adequately alert local officials and the public. Beyond the apology issued at the end of the day, a CNN anchor called for the resignation of the official concerned!

Most dramatically a sign of shattered equilibrium of the social sanity is the press coverage of the "pandemic" swine flu sweeping the globe. With the reported 140 deaths in Mexico, the press was adamant in pushing the White House to reveal what measures it has taking in the protecting the public and even the President from the intrusive virus.

An archaeologist who personally escorted President Obama in a museum tour died recently after displaying flu-like symptoms, and this obsession to know details led the White House press secretary to repeat the presidential medic's assurances that not the President, nor any of the staff, and press personnel in the Mexico entourage

See FEAR on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Another mass shooting: Fill in the blanks

By JOSH SUGARMANN
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

A heavily armed gunman opened fire yesterday at a(n) (office building/church/school/shopping mall), leaving more than (10/20/30) dead and (seven/nine/other) wounded before taking his own life. Authorities have yet to cite a motive.

Armed with a (high-capacity pistol/AK-47-type assault rifle/AR-15-type assault rifle/SKS assault rifle), the gunman (name), opened fire on the (office workers/worshipers/students/shoppers) in a rampage that lasted less than (10/15/20) minutes.

Police report that the shooter fired more than (50/100/150) rounds of ammunition and that the gun was (legally/not legally) owned.

Neighbors described the shooter as a (quiet/angry/friendly) man who kept to himself.

("I didn't even know he owned a gun,"/"But he did own a lot of guns,") one said. One onlooker, standing next to an impromptu memorial, told reporters, "I can't believe it happened here in (town)."

Gun control supporters cited yesterday's rampage and the number of annual deaths in the United States from gun violence—over 30,000, or 84 people each day—as proof of the need for tighter controls on the increasingly high-powered firearms available to Americans. One witness yesterday said, "Thirteen murdered at Columbine, 32 killed at Virginia Tech, now you can add (town) to the list."

A National Rifle Association statement said, ("This is the time to grieve, not to talk about gun control"/"The appropriate focus is enforcement of the gun laws already on the books"/"No comment").

Spokesmen for Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., citing the influence of the NRA, said that despite the increase in such shootings, they anticipated no gun control measures, including a ban on semiautomatic assault weapons and high-capacity ammunition magazines, being considered during this session of Congress.

Repeat as necessary.

Sugarmann is executive director of the Violence Policy Center and author of NRA: Money, Firepower & Fear *and* Every Handgun Is Aimed at You: The Case for Banning Handguns.

Letters to the Editor

Violating the Covenant

I don't know what the big deal is about the federal government taking over immigration and labor because even today the federal government can ultimately decide who can work in the CNMI.

It used to be my understanding that the CNMI government was able to decide who could live and work in the CNMI and that these powers were specifically given to the CNMI government through the Covenant with the United States, unless so changed by Congress. Over the last few weeks, I have come to the realization that it is all just smoke and mirrors.

How so? The federal government, through the Social Security Administration, holds the ultimate right of choosing who can live and work in the CNMI through their issuance of social security cards. My wife holds an IR permit issued by the CNMI government and in March went to the local office of the Social Security Administration to apply for a social security card. Because of a change in CNMI immigration regulations effective Jan. 1, the Social Security Administration has stopped issuing social security cards to certain classes of permit holders in the CNMI pending a review of the regulations.

Why do they need to review them? To find out whether or not the person is entitled to work in the CNMI. Never mind that the CNMI immigration has already said that they are. In other words, the Social Security Administration is attempting to be the ones who control who is eligible to work in the CNMI. Call me stupid, but I thought that was the domain of the CNMI government until Nov. 28, 2009.

Without a social security card, my wife is unable to work, even though she holds authorization from the CNMI government. My wife is unable to open a bank account and she is unable to join me on a joint bank account. This is not fair and it seems to me like it's a violation of the law. My wife, under the law, is eligible for a social security card and it seems like a violation of her civil rights to not be allowed to apply for a social security card.

While the CNMI government is spending millions fighting federalization, why doesn't someone file a federal lawsuit against the SSA for violating the Covenant and other laws that say that CNMI controls labor until the federal takeover? It seems like this is a pretty overt usurpation of the Covenant relationship.

I used to say that I didn't have an opinion about federalization, I just believe in the rule of law. One of the great things about living in the USA is that the rule of law is respected. It is frankly disturbing to me that the hypocrites who want all of this federalization are unwilling to follow the rule of law and instead are overtly violating it. If overtly violating the law is what federalization is all about then count me out.

Jack Woods
Chalan Kanoa, Saipan

Questions needing explanations

To the Mr. John DelRosario: Dysfunctional? The only dysfunctional people I see here is when a Secretary hides behind closed doors ripping off the people of the Commonwealth of their public land. Regarding the .50 cent copies, it's funny that Taotao Tano is the only one being charged to pay for copies which in fact cost us $70 all together to get such copies. The camera we brought with us during the viewing of documents was to ensure that no pages were taken out, while you prepared your total charges for us.

As for your "pay in advance for all pages, including time of staff dedicated to compile and make photocopies of documents," it's just an excuse or scare tactic, preventing people from obtaining documents from your office. Not in our case, Mr. DelRosario, for we have equipment such as scanners to make copies. You could probably assign your homestead director to compile such documents since he spends most his day locked up in his office sleeping on the job behind his desk or simply have your loyal followers assist in compiling documents instead of sitting around.

On the position of federalization, the federal rules state that nonresident workers can apply through the administrative process and if they qualify they can stay. Dekada is a foreign organization headed by an individual making excuses to prolong his stay in our homeland to obtain permanent residency or green card.

Furthermore, stop making excuses and explain the Navy Hill homestead issue. Explain how you forced employees to resign, then later transferred them to CHC? Explain why those illegally issued homesteads have your signatures on them, Mr. Secretary? Explain how you converted a ponding basin at Standford San Vicente into homesteads to appease a political constituent. Explain why a moratorium on all homestead is in place but it's open season internally. Explain why you hired three former members of the House of Representatives (Covenant constituents), completely wasting the time of other applicants who are probably more qualified than those backdoor hires of yours. And please explain why you paid monetary land compensations to known political constituents the minute you were appointed Secretary of DPL and later on complained that constitutionally it's not your responsibility to pay out monetary land compensations, while the rest of those waiting patiently are still waiting. Explain why DPL has no money for homestead infrastructure such as sewer, water and power, but 500 homesteads are being issued on Tinian seven months before the gubernatorial election. Where did the funding come from? Explain why you wrote a letter of support using your official capacity to notify the Speaker of the House of how wealthy your investor, Flame Sako, is. Explain why are so involved with Flame Sako, to include assisting with their master plan, something they should have had in the first place to begin with before you secured the leasehold and making a mockery of our Legislative Branch.

Explain why you handed me OPA's confidential audit reports on MPLA's gross mismanagement and abuse of funding in the millions by former MPLA board members and staff and yet you are doing the same thing. Explain why you told the entire staff at DPL that you won your case against Connie Togawa in federal court, yet it's the other way around and you forgot to mention to them that you had settled out of court. Mrs. Togowa might be muzzled but not me and it's of public record.

Gregrorio Cruz Jr.
Taotao Tano CNMI Inc.

Lack of discipline

In Perry Conner's letter to the editor, he laid all of the blame for poor schools on families and poor old George Bush. The real problem in schools is lack of discipline. Mr. Joe Borja at MHS ran a tight ship and there was a quiet, orderly school where students could learn and teachers could teach!

Last year I taught in a public school where the principal sat in her office and ate candy while the school was a wild jungle. It was the worst year of my teaching career. This year I am teaching at a county alternative school where the students are all dropouts, thrown-outs, pregnant or with babies and those who could not study in a regular school because of the noise and violence. This year is the best year of my career. I took a position that replaced a principal who didn't believe in discipline. I have established a classroom that is an absolutely "quiet" classroom and this year those "bad " students have finished twice as many classes as they did last year—and they love the quiet!

Best of all, Mr. Connor, quiet is free! Try it!

Franklin Keiper
Mayer, Arizona

CNMI Politics

In an article titled, "Nearly half of NMI government agencies flunk OGA test," the *Saipan Tribune* reports that only 12 of the 27 government agencies tested for compliance with the Open Government Act provided the documents requested. The OGA calls for government agencies to conduct their meetings openly, make records available to the public, and to reply to requests for information within 10 days. The purpose of the OGA is for people to trust government officials and know how and what they do with taxpayers' money. Why are the 15 government agencies refusing to give the documents being asked for? This only shows that they are either hiding something or that they are not aware of the OGA. Why do we have government officials and employees who are not aware of the Open Government Act? Being that they are employed by the government, they themselves should be aware of the law.

Government is made by the people. We the people of the CNMI should be more aware of what is going on within our government. Without people, and most especially citizen participation, there is no government. In addition, the government agencies should not refuse to give us any information. I would think that the reason why they would not give the documents requested is because they are afraid of losing their job. It is plain CNMI politics.

Venetia DLGuerrero
Finasisu, Saipan

FEAR

From Page 6

have shown any symptoms that should cause any alarm. The press acted like gawking and antsy spectators at a triage! It turns out the archaeologist succumbed to pneumonia.

The 40 reported instances of suspected patients among students in NYC who recently came from Mexico and are now reportedly exhibiting flu-like symptoms has encouraged my host and I to forego any more trips to Manhattan. Never mind that only one has so far been hospitalized. I am now traveling with a surgical mask on my return to Saipan from JFK International Airport!

We have nothing to fear but fear itself, is the famous dictum of FDR. Obama's antidote to this paralyzing epidemic taxes the nation's soul but the highly contagious virus of fear has curtailed initiative and creativity for so long, it is time to declare once more that to be mesmerized by its shadows is but a matter of choice.

There is momentary comfort in fear when it leads us to inactivity and suspends the pressure to make choices. Fear focuses us to massage and nurse our internal state rather than to pursue and strategically respond to our external sense of duty and obligation.

FEAR NOT! Isaiah counseled. Dr. Braxton read off his litany of prophetic deeds he is committed to bring into fruition, and encouraged the Riverside congregation to not falter in making it real. If the congregation can live out of their covenant rather than their fear, you might just fulfill your divine commission. Preach it, brother! Live it! The force is with you!

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers. South winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly sunny with isolated showers. South winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Rain	▲84	▼76
Palau	Showers	▲87	▼78
Yap	Showers	▲86	▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲87	▼78
Pohnpei	Mostly Sunny	▲86	▼76
Kosrae	Showers	▲87	▼79
Majuro	Rain	▲84	▼78

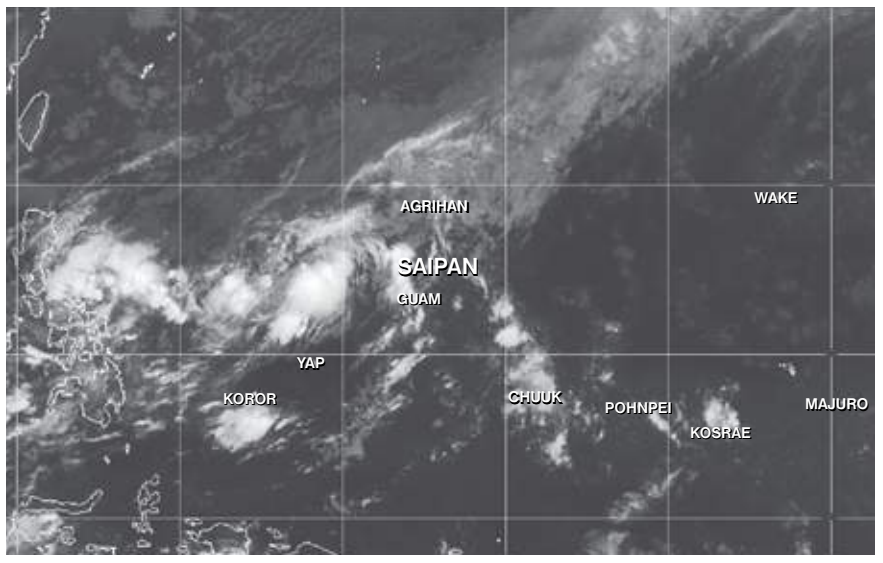
Around The Globe

Auckland	Cloudy	▲58	▼46
Beijing	Sunny	▲82	▼57
Hong Kong	Sunny	▲84	▼74
Honolulu	Partly Sunny	▲83	▼71
London	Cloudy	▲64	▼50
Los Angeles	Showers	▲72	▼56
Manila	Rain	▲84	▼77
Melbourne	Partly Sunny	▲63	▼50
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲84	▼73
New York	Showers	▲65	▼50
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	▲66	▼53
Paris	Partly Sunny	▲64	▼45
Pusan	Mostly Cloudy	▲67	▼56
Rome	Sunny	▲74	▼49
Salem	Showers	▲63	▼47
San Francisco	Showers	▲65	▼55
Seoul	Showers	▲70	▼45
Tokyo	Sunny	▲73	▼54
Washington, DC	Thunderstorms	▲69	▼55

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
2:39 AM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
8:14 AM Today	Low Tide:	1.2 Feet
12:31 PM Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet
8:06 PM Today	Low Tide:	0.0 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00AM, FRIDAY, MAY 1, 2009
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A stationary front extends southwestward from 25N153 to a circulation centered northwest of Yap at 13N137E and continues westward as a surface trough past 130E at 13N. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are located west of the Marianas or within an area bounded by a line from 20N144E to 17N145E to 10N138E to 12N130E back to 20N144E. Cloudiness and light scattered showers can be found within 130 miles of the stationary front from 18N144E to 25N153E. A surface trough extends southeastward from the circulation centered at 13N137E to end at 5N145E. Surface convergence east of the trough is producing scattered showers over Chuuk or within 60 miles of a line from 11N150E to 5N152E. Another area of scattered showers exists west of Chuuk within 60 miles of a line from 9N147E to 5N147E. An embedded trade-trade wind trough located east of the dateline is generating showers east of the Marshall Islands between 8N and EQ from 176E to the dateline.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:53 AM	6:35 PM
Sunday	5:53 AM	6:35 PM
Monday	5:52 AM	6:35 PM
Tuesday	5:52 AM	6:36 PM
Wednesday	5:52 AM	6:36 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	12:28 PM	12:39 AM
Sunday	1:25 PM	1:25 AM
Monday	2:19 PM	2:06 AM
Tuesday	3:12 PM	2:45 AM
Wednesday	4:04 PM	3:24 AM

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- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 12, 2009

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Rota			
CO9597	11:50am	12:25pm	1,7
Saipan-Guam			
CO9317	5:00am	5:50am	Daily
CO9313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
CO9597	11:50am	1:20pm	1,7 via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	2,3,4,5,6
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily
Saipan-Narita			
NW 099	5:00am	7:35am	Daily
NW 078	8:20am	1:30pm	2,3,4,5,6,7
NW 075	4:55pm	7:30pm	Daily
Guam-Narita			
NW 73	4:10pm	7:00pm	Daily
NW 81	3:55pm	6:55pm	Daily
Saipan-Osaka			
OZ 119	4:00am	6:40am	1,4,6
Guam-Osaka			
NW 79	4:45pm	7:35pm	Daily
Saipan-Nagoya			
NW 078	8:20am	11:05am	Daily
Guam-Nagoya			
NW 23	4:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
Saipan-Incheon			
OZ 604	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ 604	2:40am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7
OZ 119	4:00am	11:25am	1,4,6 via Osaka
OZ 606	3:20pm	7:00pm	Daily
Saipan-Busan			
OZ 608	3:20am	6:50am	1,4,5,7
Saipan-Shanghai			
FM 844	2:50am	5:40am	2,6
Rota-Guam			
CO 9597	12:50pm	1:20pm	1,7
Guam-Palau			
CO 953	7:40pm	8:40pm	1,7
CO 893	5:50pm	6:50pm	3,5
Palau-Manila			
CO 893	7:35pm	9:10pm	3,5
Guam-Manila			
CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	3,5 via Koror
CO 933	8:00pm	9:40pm	Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:50am	1,2,4,6,7
Nagoya-Manila			
NW 71	8:40pm	11:55pm	Daily
Incheon-Hongkong			
OZ 721	9:20am	12:00pm	Daily
OZ 723	7:45pm	10:35pm	Daily
OZ 7173	8:00pm	10:50pm	5,7
Narita-Manila			
NW 1	7:00pm	10:55pm	Daily

ARRIVALS

Rota-Saipan			
CO 9598	3:25am	4:00am	5,6
Guam-Saipan			
CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	1,2,3,4,7
CO9598	2:30am	4:00am	5,6 via Rota
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9600	10:20am	11:10am	Daily
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily
Narita-Saipan			
NW 076	10:15am	2:40pm	Daily
NW 077	6:25pm	1:20am+1	2,3,4,5,6,7
NW 100	8:45pm	1:10am+1	Daily
Narita-Guam			
NW 74	9:45am	2:20pm	Daily
NW 82	10:30am	3:10pm	Daily
Osaka-Saipan			
OZ 120	9:50pm	2:20am+1	3,5,7
Osaka-Guam			
NW 80	10:30am	3:00pm	Daily
Nagoya-Saipan			
NW 077	9:00pm	1:20am+1	Daily
Nagoya-Guam			
NW 24	10:00am	2:30pm	Daily
Incheon-Saipan			
OZ 605	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ 603	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ 120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	3,5,7 via Osaka
OZ 603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6
Busan-Saipan			
OZ 607	9:00pm	2:10am+1	3,4,6,7
Shanghai-Saipan			
FM 843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1,5
Guam-Rota			
CO 9598	2:30am	3:00am	5,6
Palau-Guam			
CO 954	2:30am	5:25am	1,2
CO 892	2:35am	5:30am	4,6
Manila-Palau			
CO 892	10:10pm	1:50am+1	3,5
Manila-Guam			
CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	3,5 via Koror
CO 934	11:10pm	4:40am+1	Daily
PR 110	10:10pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7
Manila-Nagoya			
NW 72	6:30am	11:05am	Daily
Hongkong-Incheon			
OZ 724	12:30am	4:50am	Daily
OZ 7183	12:45am	5:05am	1,4,6
OZ 722	1:30pm	5:45pm	Daily
Manila-Narita			
NW 2	7:45am	12:40pm	Daily

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

Schedule of Religious Services

CATHOLIC

Mt. Carmel Cathedral
Sunday Mass: 6am, 9am, 11am and 6pm
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm

Korean Center
Sunday: 10:30am
Wednesday: 10am
Thursday-Friday: 8pm
Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm

Kristo Rai Parish
Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am
Monday- Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm
Saturday: 6am and 6pm

Nuestra Senora De Soledad Parish
Wednesday Mass: 6pm
First Friday Healing Mass: 6pm
Saturday Mass: 6pm
Sunday Masses: 7:30am & 9am

Saint Jude Parish
Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am
Wednesday and Thursday: 6pm

San Antonio Parish
Sunday: 6am and 8am
Tuesday and Friday: 6pm

San Francisco de Borja-Rota
Sunday: 6am and 8am
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6pm

San Isidro-Rota
Sunday: 5am and 10am
Monday-Wednesday: 7pm
Thursday-Saturday: 5am and 7pm

San Jose (Oleai) Parish
Sunday: 6am and 7:30am
Tuesday-Wednesday and Friday-Saturday: 6pm

San Roque Parish
Sunday: 9am
Wednesday: 6pm
Saturday: 10:30am

San Vicente Parish
Sunday: 6am, 9am and 6pm
Monday-Saturday: 6pm

Santa Remedios
Sunday: 7:30am
Tuesday: 6pm
Saturday: 10am-Baptism

Santa Soledad
Sunday: 7:30am

PROTESTANT

Born Again Christian (Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan
Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8-10:30pm
Saturday Tagalog Service: 8-10:30pm
Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am
Sunday School for Children: 10-11am
Sunday Filipino Service: 7-9pm

Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 9am
Sunday Morning Worship: 10am
Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm
Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm

Chinese Christian Church of Saipan
Worship Services: Sunday, 10am and 7:30pm
Bible Study: Tuesday-Friday, 9:25pm

Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan
Worship/Study Opportunities
Adult Sunday School: 9am
Youth Sunday School: 9am
English Worship Service Sunday: 10am
Sunday Service: 5:30pm
Worship/Fellowship Sunday: 9:30pm
Evangelism/Follow-up: Sunday/Monday: 1:30/7:30pm
Worship Team: Monday/Saturday-9pm;
Cell Groups Tuesday: 7:30pm
Mid-week Service: 7:30pm
Prayer Meeting Wednesday: 7:30pm
Leader's Bible Study Friday: 7:30 pm
Cornerstone School of Ministry Saturday: 7:30pm

Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 9:00am
Place: Vicarage, Chalan Laulau,
Call 235-0545 for directions

Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan
Worship Service: 9am
GBI Classes: 4-6pm
Prayer Meeting: Monday-Saturday: 6am
Sunday: 7am
Home Cell Bible Study: Wednesday-Friday: 7pm
Youth Service: Friday: 5:30pm

Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan
Wednesday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Thursday: 5:30am (English); 7:45 pm (English)
Saturday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Sunday: 6:45am (English)
Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)

Immanuel United Methodist Church Koblerville
Sunday Services
9:00 AM
Place of the church-next to Mt. Carmel Cathedral on Chalan Kanoa Dr. • Tel: 322-6158
Pastor JJ Matsumoto

Immanuel Methodist Church (Filipino Congregation)
Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal
8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog)
9:15am-Sunday School
Wednesday: 6:30pm, home group
8:00pm-Prayer Meeting
Thursday: 7:30pm-Choir Practice (Church)
Saturday: 8:00pm-Choir Practice (Parsonage)

Jesus is Lord Church, Saipan
English Service: 9-11am, Sunday
Tagalog Service: 6-8pm, Sunday

Korean Presbyterian Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 8:20am
Sunday Adult: 10am
Sunday Adult: 11:30am
Sunday Evening: 7:30pm
Wednesday: 8pm

Life in the Son Christian Fellowship, Saipan
Sunday Worship Service: 10am–12noon
Tuesday: Leadership Institute 7pm-10pm
Wednesday: Corporate prayer 7pm-8pm
Last Friday of the month-prayer: 7pm-11pm
Friday: Youth on Fire: 7pm-9pm
Tel. No. 235-LIFE (5433)

Marianas Baptist Church, Saipan
English Worship Service: 9-10:30am
Evening Worship Service: 6-7pm
Children Sunday School: 9-10:30am
Tagalog Sunday School: 11am-12pm
English Sunday School: 11am-12pm
Korean Worship Service: 11am-12pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting:
English, 7pm-8pm
Korean: 8:30pm-9:30pm

Missions Connection Ministry
Every Sunday Celebrations:
10am (English), 6pm (Tagalog)
Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm
Youth Impact Friday: 7pm
Saturday Prayer Meeting: 7pm

Northern Marianas Christian Church
Sunday Worship Service 10am Fina Sisu Housing FS#1 (Child care will be provided)
Friday Services @ 7pm Fina Sisu FS#1 for more info pls. contact Ryan 484-2620

Saipan Bible Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30-10am
Divine Worship: 10am-11:30am
Evening Service: 7pm-8:30pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8pm-9pm

Saipan Christian Church
Sunday: 7:30am-10am
Sunday: 6:30 pm -9pm
Monday: 8 pm -10pm (Prayer Meeting)
Thursday: 8pm-10pm (Cell Groups)

Saipan Church of Christ
Sunday Bible Class: 9am
Sunday Worship: 10am
Sunday Worship English: 6pm
Sunday Worship Tagalog: 7pm
Wednesday Bible Study: 7:30pm

Saipan Community Church
(Sunday Services)
Palau Service: 7:30am-9am
English Service: 10am-11:30am
Chuukese Service: 1pm-2:30pm
Filipino Service: 5:00pm-7:00pm

Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Saipan
(Saturday Church Services)
Sabbath School Program: 9-10am
Lesson Study: 10-10:40am
Divine Service: 11-12pm
Visitation: 3-4pm
Adventist Youth Program: 4:30-5:30pm
Sundown Worship: 6-7pm

First Baptist Church
(Formerly Saipan Baptist Church)
Afetna St., San Antonio
Sunday
9am Sunday school
10am Regular worship
6pm worship
Wednesday
7pm worship
Everyone is warmly welcome to attend our worship services. Transportation is readily available to anyone who needs a ride to our church. For further information, please call Pastor David M. Mclure at 234-1939/235-7779.

Thy Word Ministries Saipan Faith Center
Phone 234-0209
New Christian Charismatic Church Service located in Chalan Paio, Beach Road in the Sablan building on the 2nd floor above Subway Sandwiches.
Senior Pastors: George & Gail Kamakahi
Asst. Pastors: Eric & Penny Sakaguchi
Service Times
Sunday 10:00am Worship Service
Sunday 7pm Discipleship Classes
Tuesday 10:00am Bible Studies
Tuesday 6:00pm Intercessory Prayer
Tuesday 7:00pm Music Practice
Wednesday 7:00pm Mid-Week Service
Saturday 10:00am Evangelism

Upper Room International Ministries
Sunday 5:30am-6:30am
Morning prayer
7am-9am English service
7am-9am Sunday school
10am-12noon English service, Koblerville
Wednesday 7pm-9pm Prayer meeting
Saturday 7pm-9pm Tagalog service
Venue: Jason Presbyterian Church
Gualo Rai, Saipan

Victory Chapel Christian Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30am
Sunday AM Worship:10:30am
Sunday PM Worship:7:00am
Wed Worship: 7:30pm
Prayer 45 min. Prior to Service Times
Morning Prayer: 6-8am M-S

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

May 2, 2000

Gov't okays plan to settle CUC bills

The government has pledged to make a monthly payment of at least $1.3 million to the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation to pare down over $11 million it has owed in overdue utility bills for the past few months. Finance officials have reached the payment plan with CUC after the government-owned utility firm demanded settlement of the debt. "We made arrangement to pay on an installment basis. We are paying about $1.3 million to $1.4 million [a month]," Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio told reporters yesterday. "So we are trying to make good of our obligations."

Administration spending dropped by $35-M

Living up to the expectations of its self-imposed cost-cutting measures since 1998, the Tenorio Administration managed to slash its spending for the last fiscal year by more than $35 million, according to a report from the finance department. The DOF report, contained in the commerce department's economic review, disclosed the Commonwealth spent only $220.3 million in Fiscal Year 1999, lower from the previous period's $255.6 million. Government officials said the quality of the delivery of basic social and public services did not suffer despite the drastic cut in expenditures since the austerity measure primarily focused on non-essential spending.

May 2, 2001

Not enough nurses at CHC

At least nine retired nurses were called back to work yesterday by the Department of Public Health in efforts to alleviate problems associated with the shortage of nurses to man the hospital. Last month, the health department was forced to "borrow" nurses from the Rota and Tinian Public Health Centers to ease burdens of on-duty nurses working round-the-clock at the CHC. In an interview, DPH Secretary Kevin Villagomez disclosed measures have been installed to resolve the crisis which has become a national concern due to increasing demand of nurses even in the mainland United States. DPH has tapped the assistance of two manpower agencies to facilitate the swift employment of nurses to fill up vacated positions in the Intensive Care Unit, inpatient departments and other critical areas at the CHC.

Firm sued for illegal dismissal

The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission has lodged complaints against a local corporation in behalf of the latter's former employees whom it allegedly discharged for complaining against the company. Elm's Corporation, a company that does business as Town and Country Restaurant, is facing a civil action suit before the US District Court for allegedly performing unlawful employment practices against workers Gemma Soriano and Antonio Magtibay. The former restaurant employees were allegedly terminated in retaliation last October 1998 after both filed an EEOC complaint against Town and Country for allegedly practicing unlawful sex discrimination.

May 2, 2002

US court stops FDM bombing

A federal court issued an injunction ordering the immediate halting of all military activities on Farallon de Mendinilla Island that would harm its bird population. Judge Emmett G. Sullivan, sitting on the bench for the U.S. District Court of Columbia, issued the injunction on April 30 (Columbia time), effectively enforcing the declaration of illegality that it rendered against the military bombing exercises sometime last March. In a statement sent to the Saipan Tribune via email, the Center for Biological Diversity—the environmental group which petitioned the court to issue the injunction—said that Sullivan did not give credence to the claim of the U.S. Navy and Department of Defense that an uninterrupted use of the island for bombing exercises is vital.

...as Navy calls off exercises

Immediately after learning of the injunction order yesterday morning (Marianas time), the U.S. Navy called off its bombing exercises on Farallon de Mendinilla Island. This was disclosed by Lt. Monica Richardson, public affairs officer for the Commander of the Naval Forces Marianas based on Guam. Richardson said she received the information on Guam at about 7am. "We were advised of the judge's decision," Richardson told Saipan Tribune. "We are doing everything to comply with the decision." "All military training that has been scheduled was canceled," Richardson said.

Business

After struggle, Chrysler succumbs to bankruptcy

DETROIT (AP)—The first sound of the gavel in Chrysler's bankruptcy case might as well be the bang of a starter's pistol.

The nation's third-largest automaker filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection Thursday with an ambitious plan to emerge in as little as 30 days as a leaner, more nimble company. And Chrysler's first hearing in a New York courtroom Friday morning may offer the first clue as to whether a quick, "surgical" bankruptcy is actually possible.

After months on government life support, Chrysler is pinning its future on a top-to-bottom reorganization and plans to build cleaner cars through an alliance with Italian automaker Fiat. In return, the federal government agreed to give Chrysler up to $8 billion in additional aid and to back its warranties.

On Friday morning, bankruptcy court Judge Arthur Gonzalez is scheduled to hear the case's first motions, which typically will allow the company to continue paying workers and basic utility costs as it restructures.

Eventually, Gonzalez will have to sort out the key issue that made bankruptcy necessary: the creditors that hold $6.9 billion of the Chrysler's debt.

Four of the largest banks holding 70 percent of the debt agreed this week to a deal that would give them $2 billion. But a collection of hedge funds refused to budge, saying the deal was unfair and would only return a small fraction of their holdings.

President Barack Obama on Thursday chastised the funds for seeking an "unjustified taxpayer-funded bailout" after Chrysler and his auto task force cleared the company's other hurdles. Along with the Fiat deal, Chrysler adopted a cost-cutting pact with the UAW this week.

"They were hoping that everybody else would make sacrifices and they would have to make none," Obama said. "I don't stand with those who held out when everybody else is making sacrifices."

One lender, OppenheimerFunds Inc., said it rejected the government offer because it "unfairly asked our fund shareholders to make financial sacrifices greater than the sacrifices being made by unsecured creditors."

The White House said Chrysler could come out of bankruptcy in 30 to 60 days. Under normal circumstances, it would be difficult to complete such a large bankruptcy so quickly.

But John Pottow, a University of Michigan professor who specializes in bankruptcy, said the government's level of involvement is much greater than in a typical corporate bankruptcy.

"If you have the president of the United States who wants something to happen, I think anything's possible in bankruptcy protection," he said.

In the meantime, Chrysler said it will close all of its plants starting Monday and they will remain closed until the company comes out of bankruptcy. At least three Detroit-area factories sent workers home Thursday after suppliers stopped shipping parts over fears they would not be paid.

House passes credit card bill that helps consumers

WASHINGTON (AP)—Riding a crest of populist anger, the House on Thursday approved a bill to restrict credit card practices and eliminate sudden increases in interest rates and late fees that have entangled millions of consumers. The legislation, dubbed the Credit Card Holders' Bill of Rights, passed by a bipartisan vote of 357-70 following lobbying by President Barack Obama and members of his administration.

The measure would prohibit so-called double-cycle billing and retroactive rate hikes and would prevent companies from giving credit cards to anyone under 18.

If they become law, the new provisions won't take effect for a year, except for a requirement that customers get 45 days' notice before their interest rates are increased. That would take effect in 90 days.

Similar legislation is before the Senate, where it could be taken up as early as next week.

"This is a unique opportunity to end abusive practices that afflict millions of families across the nation, to contribute to our economic recovery, and to take a stand for American consumers," Sen. Christopher Dodd, chairman of the Senate Banking Committee and the bill's primary sponsor, said after the House vote. "Now it is the Senate's turn to act."

Consumer advocates and some Democrats have unsuccessfully sought for years to bring new rules to the industry.

Supporters want to put a final congressional package under Obama's eager pen by the Memorial Day holiday. They acknowledged, though, that House passage of the measure was an opening salvo and a lengthy legislative slog lies ahead, in which industry interests could prevail in getting restrictions weakened.

Nation

More schools close, swine flu cases pass 100

WASHINGTON (AP)—Nearly 300 schools scattered around the country closed as the nation's swine flu caseload passed 100 Thursday, and U.S. authorities said they eventually could produce enough vaccine for everyone if necessary—but that shots couldn't begin until fall at the earliest.

The outbreak penetrated over a dozen states and even touched the White House, which disclosed that an aide to Energy Secretary Steven Chu apparently got sick helping arrange President Barack Obama's recent trip to Mexico but that the aide did not fly on Air Force One and never posed a risk to the president.

An estimated 12,000 people logged onto a Webcast where the government's top emergency officials sought to cut confusion by answering questions straight from the public: Can a factory worker handling parts from Mexico catch the virus? No. Can pets get it? No.

And is washing hands or using those alcohol-based hand gels best? Washing well enough is the real issue, answered Dr. Richard Besser, acting chief of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. He keeps hand gel in his pocket for between-washings but also suggested that people sing "Happy Birthday" as they wash their hands to make sure they've washed long enough to get rid of germs.

It is safe to fly, U.S. officials found themselves stressing after Vice President Joe Biden got off message Thursday. Biden said he'd discourage family members from flying or even taking the subway. The White House insisted the vice president meant to say he was discouraging just nonessential travel to Mexico, the hardest-hit area.

"It is safe to fly. There is no reason to cancel flights," Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood said. Not just planes but "all modes of transportation are safe in America," he added.

Source: Justice Souter retiring

WASHINGTON (AP)—Justice David Souter is planning to retire after more than 19 years on the Supreme Court, giving President Barack Obama his first chance to fill a vacancy on the high court.

The White House has been told that Souter will retire in June, when the court finishes its work for the summer, a source familiar with his plans said Thursday night. He almost certainly would remain on the bench until a successor is confirmed.

Souter

The source spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak for Souter.

Souter had no comment Thursday night, a Supreme Court spokeswoman said.

Souter's retirement is unlikely to alter the ideological balance on the closely divided court because Obama is certain to replace the liberal-leaning justice with someone with similar views.

But the vacancy could lead to another woman on the bench to join Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, currently the court's only woman.

At 69, Souter is much younger than either Ginsburg, 76, or Justice John Paul Stevens, 89. Yet those justices have given no indication they intend to retire soon and Ginsburg said she plans to serve into her 80s despite her recent surgery for pancreatic cancer.

Interest groups immediately began gearing up for what could be a grueling battle over the president's first pick to the high court.

"We're looking for President Obama to choose an eminently qualified candidate who is committed to the core constitutional values, who is committed to justice for all and not just a few," said Nan Aron, president of the liberal Alliance for Justice.

ACROSS THE NATION

Police call man LA's 'largest ever' serial killer

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Police believe a 72-year-old insurance claims adjuster arrested earlier this month is the most prolific serial killer in the city's history, having raped and strangled as many as 30 older women over two decades. The break in the cold case came in October when John Floyd Thomas Jr., who had twice been convicted of sexual assault, had a DNA sample taken as part of an effort to build an offender database. Thomas was charged April 2 with murdering one woman in 1972 and another in 1976. DNA matching Thomas' was found at three other crime scenes in the 1970s and '80s, police robbery-homicide Capt. Denis Cremins said. Detectives now consider Thomas a suspect in at least 25 other killings, and the number could grow as detectives probe unsolved cases going back to the 1950s, Cremins said. It could not immediately be determined where the other killings took place.

Part of vacant NYC building collapses, wounding 3

NEW YORK (AP)—Part of a vacant five-story building that had recently been cited collapsed in lower Manhattan on Thursday morning, leaving mounds of rubble and slightly injuring three people, officials said. Emergency crews with a dog searched the site and a neighboring building as a precaution, and three people—two firefighters and one civilian—were treated at a hospital for minor injuries, fire officials said. Their conditions weren't available. Gas was shut off in the area. Lewis Largent, who lives across the street, was looking out the window at 6:15 a.m. when "the bricks started trickling off the top corner. I was thinking was it raining or something. Then within 10 seconds it just all came down like a wave or an avalanche." Building inspectors were at the scene, about seven blocks north of the World Trade Center site. The cause was not immediately determined.

Former 'enemy combatant' pleads guilty in Illinois

PEORIA, Ill. (AP)—A man who was locked up without charges for years pleaded guilty Thursday to training in al-Qaida camps and coming to the United States on a mission for the terrorist group the day before the Sept. 11 attacks. Ali al-Marri, 43, admitted to one count of conspiring to provide material support or resources to a foreign terrorist organization. A second charge of providing material support or resources to a foreign terrorist organization was dropped. Al-Marri faces up to 15 years in prison and a $250,000 fine at his July 30 sentencing, though he will be credited for 18 months spent in civilian custody. His attorneys say they'll argue that he should get credit for the time spent in military custody, too—more than five years.

INVITATION FOR BID

Building Maintenance of NMHC's Housing Units in Rota
IFB NO.: NMHC - IFB09-002

This ad is paid by NMHC with HUD Funds.

Governor Benigno R. Fitial through the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, are hereby giving notice that NMHC is soliciting sealed bids from interested, licensed companies in the Commonwealth to provide building maintenance services for its housing units in As Liyo, Island of Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Interested firms may pick up Bid Specifications at NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan or Songsong Village, Rota, from 7:30 a.m. through 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

A mandatory Pre-Bid Conference will be held on Tuesday, May 12, 2009, at 10:30 a.m. at the NMHC Field Office located in Songsong Village, Rota. Bidders will have the opportunity to tour the housing subdivisions and inspect several housing units owned by NMHC that will be covered under the proposed contract. Attendance at this conference and site visit are considered essential to the bidders' understanding of the project elements and a company that does not have a representative in attendance at the pre-bid conference will be considered as a non-responsive bidder.

Sealed Bids must be marked **NMHC IFB09-002.** For bidders within the CNMI, an original and three (3) copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director, Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than **10:00 a.m., local time, May 22, 2009.** Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m., local time, May 22, 2009 and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515 or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com For bidders located outside of the CNMI, an original and three (3) copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U. S. Postal Service or the official government postal service no later than May 22, 2009 AND must be received by Procurement and Supply no later than June 3, 2009. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. local time, June 4, 2008. However, if no Notices of Intent to Bid are received from bidders outside of the CNMI, the bids will be opened at 10:30 a.m., local time, May 22, 2009.

Bidders are advised that this project is subject to compliance with the Davis-Bacon Act and the labor standard provisions for wage rate determination of the Commonwealth. All labor on the project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage for the CNMI or the U. S. Department of Labor General Decision CM20080001, whichever is higher.

This project is also subject to Section 3 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1968 which requires the successful bidder to the "maximum extent feasible", take affirmative steps to provide training, contracting and employment opportunities and help ensure that the economic opportunities generated by these HUD funds are provided to local low-income residents in Rota.

Bidding procedures shall be in compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, however, Article 7, "Local Business Preference", as amended by Public Laws 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, is not available to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funding for this project.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsible bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsible bid will be awarded a contract with NMHC.

NMHC hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively ensure that, in any contacts entered into pursuant to this advertisement, small, minority businesses and women's business enterprises will be afforded equal opportunity to submit bids and will not be discriminated against on grounds of race, color, religion, sex, disabilities or national origin.

NMHC reserves the right to reject any and all bids for any reason and to waive any defects in the bids if determined to be in its best interest. All bids received shall become the property of the Commonwealth Government.

Should you require additional information, please direct inquiries to Edith C. Fejeran, Office Manager, via email to ecfejeran@nmhc.gov.mp or facsimile at (670) 234-9021, no later than end of business day, 4:30 p.m., Wednesday, May 13, 2009, so that questions and answers may be shared with all bidders.

/s/ **MARCIE M. TOMOKANE**
Chairwoman of the Board

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
Director, Procurement & Supply

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
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NOTICE OF SALE

UNDER POWER OF SALE
IN DEED OF TRUST

DONALD C. CAMACHO and ROSALINDA ULLOA (collectively "Trustor"), on or about December 20, 2004, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on December 23, 2004 under Document No. 04-3035 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

Lot 001 C 57, (part of Lot 001 C 26, which was part of Lot 001 C 15, which was part of Lot 001 C 13, which was part of original Lot 001 C 5, TD 697), as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 001 C 11, the original of which was recorded 05 JUN as Document No. 98-1697 at Commonwealth Recorder's Saipan.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on March 13, 2009. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on May 29, 2009, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than **$127,430.00**. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Merced M. Tomokane, Chairwoman of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than **May 28, 2009, at 4:00 p.m. All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than May 28, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.**

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within three (3) working days from time of sale.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Dated this 29th day of April, 2009.

/S/JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director, NMHC

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NOTICE OF SALE

UNDER POWER OF SALE
IN DEED OF TRUST

ANTONIA T. TEIGITA/ EFRAIN T. TEIGITA (collectively "Trustor"), on or about August 1, 1984, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on August 1, 1984 under Document No. 84-1366 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

Lot No. 003 B 16, and Containing an area of 1,117 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat Number 003 B 02, the original of which was registered with the Land Commission as Document 5979, on the 4th day of April, 1977.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on March 13, 2009. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on May 29, 2009, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than **$68,150.00**. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Merced M. Tomokane, Chairwoman of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than **May 28, 2009, at 4:00 p.m. All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than May 28, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.**

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within three (3) working days from time of sale.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Dated this 29th day of April, 2009.

/S/JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director, NMHC

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NOTICE OF SALE

UNDER POWER OF SALE
IN DEED OF TRUST

RICARDO P. CASTRO and LORENZA P. CASTRO (collectively "Trustor"), on or about October 8, 1998, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on October 16, 1998 under Document No. 98-3276 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

Lot No. 011 G 685, containing an area of 845 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plate No. 011 G 14 dated December 1, 1993 , Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 93-4182, dated December 3, 1993, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on March 13, 2009. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on May 29, 2009, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than **$90,200.00**. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Merced M. Tomokane, Chairwoman of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than **May 28, 2009, at 4:00 p.m. All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than May 28, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.**

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within three (3) working days from time of sale.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Dated this 29th day of April, 2009.

/S/JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director, NMHC

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World

Mexico health chief optimistic; more US cases

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Mexico's top medical officer voiced optimism Thursday that swine flu has slowed in the nation hardest hit by the virus, but the World Health Organization cautioned there is no evidence the worst of the global outbreak is over.

The U.S. caseload rose slightly to 130 as hundreds of schools nationwide shut their doors, and the crisis even reached the White House, which said an aide to the secretary of energy apparently got sick helping arrange a presidential trip to Mexico.

European health ministers vowed to work quickly with drugmakers to rush a vaccine into production, but American health officials suggested inoculations could not begin until fall at the earliest.

Mexican Health Secretary Jose Angel Cordova told The Associated Press new cases have leveled off and the death rate has been nearly flat for several days. He said the next few days would be critical in determining whether the virus was truly on the decline.

"The fact that we have a stabilization in the daily numbers, even a drop, makes us optimistic," he said. "Because what we'd expect is geometric or exponential growth. And that hasn't been the situation. So we think we're on the right track."

The health ministry, which earlier said 168 people were believed killed by swine flu in Mexico, on Thursday would only confirm 12 of those deaths and would not say how many were suspected.

The World Health Organization's top flu official, responding to similarly hopeful remarks from other Mexican officials, sounded a more cautious note about whether the virus had peaked.

"For things to go up and down in a country is expected. If it didn't do that would be very unusual," Dr. Keiji Fukuda said in Geneva. "Hopefully we'll see more of the data of what's going on there. But I expect even in Mexico you will see a mixed picture."

AP

Wearing protective face masks to protect against swine flu contagion, Jaqueline Garcia Gonzalez, right, and Alan Martinez look at each other while waiting in line to be examined by a doctor at a mobile medical brigade set up in downtown Mexico City, Thursday April, 30, 2009

WORLD BRIEFS

Car hits crowd watching Dutch queen, kills 5

APELDOORN, Netherlands (AP)—A Dutch driver careened through police barriers and plowed into a crowd of merrymakers cheering their popular queen Thursday, in a premeditated assault on the royal family that killed five bystanders and injured 12, authorities said. The speeding car, already dented apparently from catapulting bystanders into the air, passed within a few meters (yards) of the open-topped bus carrying Queen Beatrix and her family down a parade route, then smashed into a stone monument. "I think that it has become clear that this happened with premeditation," Prime Minister Jan Peter Balkenende said. Prosecutors said the driver, badly injured and still in his crumpled car, acknowledged targeting the queen and her family.

Helicopter sabotage targets Indian billionaire

NEW DELHI (AP)—Anil Ambani does not wait in traffic. The billionaire industrialist often commutes by helicopter, soaring far above the traffic jams that clog his sprawling hometown of Mumbai. But Ambani's high-flying life could have ended last week—a complaint filed with police said pebbles and gravel were found in the chopper's engine—debris that could have caused the craft to crash. The case took a bizarre twist this week: the technician who discovered the suspected sabotage turned up dead. Bharat Borge's body was discovered on suburban Mumbai railway tracks after he was apparently hit by a train—a death police are calling suicide but Borge's family believes was murder.

Chavez says Colombia rebels unwelcome in Venezuela

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—President Hugo Chavez said Thursday that his government will not tolerate incursions by Colombian rebels into Venezuelan territory. Chavez said he was responding to concerns relayed this week by Colombia's government over the killing of eight Colombian soldiers by a rebel ambush in the Sierra de Perija, a mountain range on the 1,400-mile (2,300-kilometer) border separating the two countries. Colombian and U.S. officials have long said the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC, find sanctuary inside Venezuela, and Washington has accused some in Chavez's inner circle of aiding the rebels. Chavez denies that.

Iraqi refugees stay put despite relative calm

DAMASCUS, Syria (AP)—The vast majority of Iraqis who fled their country have no plans to return even though violence is way down, many hoping instead to resettle in the West.

The trends, uncovered on the basis of scores of interviews by The Associated Press and confirmed by Iraqi government and United Nations figures, raise the possibility that countries like Syria and Egypt—poor themselves—could face a significant refugee problem for years to come.

Iraq may never, or at least not for years, recover much of the urban, educated, predominantly Sunni Muslim and Christian middle-class whose skills would be vital to its rebuilding. The ranks of doctors and other medical professions have been particularly hard-hit by the refugee flight.

"Life here is better. My children can play outside and I know they'll come back. You never know what's going to happen there," said Taghrid Hadi, who fled Iraq in September 2006 after gunmen kidnapped and killed her husband, dumping his mutilated body outside their home just north of Baghdad.

Hadi, 34, has no intention of returning home. She and other relatives are waiting for word on their applications to be resettled in a third country. Where? "Anywhere but Iraq, I don't care where," she said.

NKorea intensifies probe of detained SKorean

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea said Friday it is intensifying its investigation into a South Korean worker detained on suspicion of denouncing the communist nation's government, indicating it had no intention of releasing him any time soon.

The man was detained March 30 at an industrial complex in North Korea that the two neighboring countries jointly operate.

South Korea has pressed for his release, saying his arrest violates human rights guidelines and accords on the operation of the complex, which contains more than 100 South Korean-run factories. The North has rejected these arguments.

The worker, identified as Yu Song-jin, "malignantly slandered the dignified system," said a statement from the North's agency in charge of the complex. "A competent institution is now carrying on a deep-going investigation into the case," it said, without elaborating on the charges against him.

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NOTICE OF SALE

UNDER POWER OF SALE
IN DEED OF TRUST

ANGELICA R. BERMUDES/HERMAN R. BERMUDES (collectively "Trustor"), on or about February 10, 1987, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on February 10, 1987 under Document No. 87-0297 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

Tract No. H-314-1 containing an area of 929 square meters more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys check number 2092/86, which was filed at the Commonwealth Recorder's office under file number 86-0857, BK. 1, PG-170, 3:38 p.m. on April 29, 1986.
Tract No. H-314-R/W contain an area of 759 square meters more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Check Number 2092/86, which was filed at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office under file number 86-2112, BK. 6, PG-96, 1:55 p.m. on October 22, 1986.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on March 13, 2009. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on May 29, 2009, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than **$53,150.00**. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Merced M. Tomokane, Chairwoman of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than **May 28, 2009, at 4:00 p.m. All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than May 28, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.**

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within three (3) working days from time of sale.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Dated this 29th day of April, 2009.

/S/JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director, NMHC

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NOTICE OF SALE

UNDER POWER OF SALE
IN DEED OF TRUST

GUADALUPE O. BORJA ("Trustor"), on or about October 16, 1984, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on October 16, 1984 under Document No. 84-2185 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

Lot No. 017 D 35, containing an area of 900 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat Number 017 D 00, the original of which was registered with the Land Registry as document number 4842, on the 11th day of September, 1975.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on March 13, 2009. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on May 29, 2009, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than **$98,150.00**. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Merced M. Tomokane, Chairwoman of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than **May 28, 2009, at 4:00 p.m. All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than May 28, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.**

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within three (3) working days from time of sale.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Dated this 29th day of April, 2009.

/S/JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director, NMHC

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NOTICE OF SALE

UNDER POWER OF SALE
IN DEED OF TRUST

MARIA A. TEREGEYO ("Trustor"), on or about June 6, 1984, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on June 6, 1984 under Document No. 84-881 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

Lot No. 005 I 494, containing an area of 745 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat Number 2084/82, the original of which was registered with the Land Registry as Document Number 14232 dated May 14, 1982, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on March 13, 2009. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on May 29, 2009, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than **$116,150.00**. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Merced M. Tomokane, Chairwoman of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than **May 28, 2009, at 4:00 p.m. All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than May 28, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.**

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within three working days from time of sale.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Dated this 29th day of April, 2009.

/S/JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director, NMHC

NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency

Maharlika

PINOY LIFE IN THE MARIANAS

Saturday, May 2, 2009

Filipino workers warned vs sponsorship schemes

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Most illegal sponsorship cases uncovered by the CNMI Department of Labor involve Filipino workers who paid anywhere from $500 to $1,000 or more to individuals who will present themselves as "employers" just so the workers can remain in the CNMI.

Because of the number of cases involving Filipino nationals, the Philippine Consulate General has reiterated its warning against engaging in sponsorship schemes.

"We discourage people from entering into sponsorship arrangements. We do not approve of that," Philippine Consul Belinda Ante told *Saipan Tribune.* "Workers should be careful because sponsorships can lead to trouble."

While the Philippine government sympathizes with workers who want to better themselves, Ante said it does not condone their engaging in illegal agreements.

"We are in a foreign land and we have to follow their rules and laws… Majority of those [involved in the] sponsorship cases didn't approach us," said Ante.

Most of the Filipino workers who knowingly entered into sponsorship deal have lost their job and could not find another legitimate employment. Because they want to stay in the CNMI, they offer money to "employers" who will file an application with Labor to hire them. Once their application is approved, they continue to have legal status to remain in the CNMI even though they're not provided work by their supposed employer, in violation of CNMI laws and regulations.

The consul said illegal sponsorship is happening not only in the CNMI but in other countries as well. "That's why the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration reminds workers to deal with POEA accredited employers," she added.

A recent sponsorship scheme uncovered by Labor involved 24 Filipinos and their "employer," Leon H. Lizama. Five of the 24 workers cooperated with Labor to uncover the scheme, which found Lizama liable. Labor administrative hearing officer Jerry Cody ordered Lizama to pay $12,000 and permanently barred him from hiring foreign workers.

Another recent case involved 13 Filipino workers who each paid $1,000 to Elenita E. Camacho to file employment applications for nonexistent jobs. Of the 13 workers, only 11 were granted employment transfer.

Just like the first "employer," Camacho was also permanently barred by Labor from hiring nonresident workers in the CNMI or from employment as a nonresident worker in the CNMI. Labor administrative hearing officer Herbert D. Soll issued two separate orders sanctioning Camacho $500 for each of the 13 violations, for a total of $6,500.

One of the reasons why Labor has been able to detect a sponsorship arrangement is their familiarity with the many legitimate employers in the CNMI. For example, when Labor notices that a single employer submits five, 10, 15 or more applications to hire workers, then they would look closer.

PHILIPPINE BRIEFS

4 hurt in ambush on military convoy

CAMP SIONGCO, Maguindanao—Four people were injured when suspected Moro rebels ambushed a convoy of three dump trucks ferrying charcoal in Guindulungan town in Maguindanao on Thursday evening, the military said Friday. Colonel Jonathan Ponce, spokesman of the military's 6th Infantry Division, said the rebels could have mistook the trucks, which came from Zamboanga Sibugay, for a military convoy as it was passing by Barangay (village) Macasampen past 11 p.m. Guindulungan is among Maguindanao towns where the manhunt for Moro Islamic Liberation Front leader Ombra Kato has been going on for months now. Ponce identified those as injured Ricky Fuertes, Norman Atamosa, Ronnie Barriga and Jonie Labrador. The victims, he said, were rushed to the Tamondong Hospital in Esperanza, Sultan Kudarat. ***(Philippine Daily Inquirer)***

7 senators petition Lozada release

MANILA, Philippines—Seven senators have signed a petition asking the court to release whistleblower Rodolfo Lozada on "recognizance" from his detention. An urgent ex-parte motion to be filed this Monday at the Manila regional trial court was signed by Senate President Juan Ponce-Enrile, senators Mar Roxas Panfilo Lacson, Gregorio Honasan, Jamby Madrigal, Loren Legarda, and Noynoy Aquino III. Roxas himself will deliver a copy to Lozada this Friday. Lozada has refused to post bail after he was arrested on perjury charges stemming from his testimony at the Senate on alleged corruption in the now-aborted national broadband network project that was to have been carried out by China's ZTE Corp. ***(INQUIRER.net)***

Flooding reported in Naga, Daet

NAGA CITY, Camarines Sur—Heavy rains brought by a low pressure area off Albay in the Bicol Region have caused floods in parts of this city as well as Daet, capital of Camarines Norte, where the mayor has ordered the evacuation of villages on the banks of a river. Naga City Mayor Jesse Robredo said the runoff of rainwater from the upper villages of the city on the flanks of Mt. Isarog flooded several thoroughfares in the city Friday morning. As of 9 a.m., the flooded portions were Isarog and Mayon Avenues while parts of Barangay (village) Calauag and Barangay San Felipe were submerged in knee-deep water. No evacuation order, however, was issued. In Daet, Mayor Tito Sarion ordered the evacuation of residents along the banks of the Daet River which has been swollen by the rains. As of 10 a.m., 95 families in the six villages of San Isidro, Mambalite, Camambugan, Barangay 3, Barangay 2, Bagasbas were displaced by the floods, said Sarion. Meanwhile, police in Vinzons town said no floods had yet been reported in the area but they were monitoring the heavy rains. ***(INQUIRER.net)***

Thieves break into gov't offices in Benguet

MANILA, Philippines—Thieves broke into several government offices and carted P72,000 worth of cash and several equipment early Wednesday, police said on Friday. A report from the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) police office said the incident occurred at around 2 a.m. when unidentified men broke into the offices of the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), the National Commission on Indigenous People (NCIP), the Department of Agrarian Reform, and the Provincial Post Office, all located in the Provincial Capitol Compound in La Trinidad town. The suspects reportedly gained entry into the compound by climbing the fence made from cyclone wire located at the back of the building and breaking the glass windows of the offices. Apart from the P72,000 cash, thieves also took two laptops, two LCD computer accessories. ***(INQUIRER.net)***

P90-M fund sought for anti-swine flu plan

MANILA, Philippines—The National Disaster Coordination Council said Friday that it would ask for some P90 million from Malacañang to draw up a plan to avert the entry of the swine flu virus here as well as the government's response if it does enter and infects people. Officials said the amount might be taken from existing contingency funds. ***(INQUIRER.net)***

Legacy owner at St. Luke's for tonsil cancer

MANILA, Philippines—The founder of the collapsed Legacy Group of Companies is being treated for cancer of the tonsils at St. Luke's Medical Center in Quezon City, according to a hospital spokesperson. Celso de los Angeles Jr. went under the knife late on Tuesday and is still unable to talk, but "gave his permission to release his medical condition to the media through his brother," Marilen Lagniton, St. Luke's vice president for customer affairs, told the Philippine Daily Inquirer Thursday afternoon. Lagniton refused to say how advanced the cancer was. She said De los Angeles' doctor would issue a medical bulletin as soon as all the tests had been conducted. De los Angeles, the mayor of Santo Domingo, Albay, has been charged with syndicated estafa (fraud) by private investors, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas and Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. in connection with the questionable closure of Legacy banks and pre-need firms. ***(INQUIRER.net)***

AP

ANTI-FLU DRUGS

Health Secretary Francisco Duque III shows boxes of anti-flu drugs inside a government warehouse Thursday, April 30, 2009 in Manila, Philippines to show their readiness to arrest the possible spread of swine flu virus in the country. Global health authorities warned that swine flu was threatening to bloom into a pandemic, and the virus spread farther in Europe even as the outbreak appeared to stabilize at its epicenter.

House probe on 'overpriced' noodles sought

By LIRA DALANGIN-FERNANDEZ
INQUIRER.NET

MANILA, Philippines—Instant noodles at P22 per pack?

Finding this incredible, Bayan Muna partylist Representative Teodoro Casiño on Thursday asked the House of Representatives committee on good government to look into the alleged overpricing of instant noodles in line with the feeding program of the Department of Education (DepEd).

One of the staples of poor families, instant noodles are priced from P7 to P10 per pack.

The DepEd recently awarded a contract to Jeverps Manufacturing Corporation for 19,418,880 packs of instant noodles this year that cost P22.00 per pack as part of its "Malusog na Simula, Yaman ng Bansa" feeding program.

Casiño said the apparent overpricing and the alleged non-conformity of Jeverps' products with the package description specified by the DepEd cast serious doubt on the DepEd's procurement procedures.

"Does this government also tolerate the giving of substandard or falsely-labeled food to our children?," he said.

Laboratory tests allegedly made by experts from Vietnam, Malaysia, Hong Kong, and South Korea showed that the noodles had no egg or "malunggay" content, contrary to Jeverps' claim.

"The noodles scam shows telltale signs of graft and corruption and plunder implicating administration officials," Casiño said.

In 2008, the DepEd reportedly procured from Jeverps Manufacturing Corporation 15 million packs of instant noodles costing P284 million, where each pack of instant noodles were already allegedly overpriced at P18.00 per pack.

Pacquiao draws extra inspiration from mom

LAS VEGAS (AFP)— Dionisia Pacquiao finally came to the United States with her son Manny for one of his mega-fights, but the mother of the Filipino superstar boxer still can't bring herself to watch him fight.

Manny Pacquiao tries to match a boxing record and become world champion in his sixth weight class on Saturday by beating England's Ricky Hatton, but his mom cannot bear to see Manny trading punches from ringside.

"She is scared to watch it live," Pacquiao said. "To have her here, it's going to give me more inspiration to do my best and win. It's going to be one of the best times I've had in my life."

Dionisia Pacquiao plans to pray for her son while he is in the ring.

"I'm not scared," she said through a translator. "I'm confident he's going to win. Manny is going to go all the way."

Pacquiao, who grew up in a farming family, built a house for his mother near his own in the Philippines. His mother has avoided joining her son on prior trips over health issues as well as to make certain his return was perfect.

AP

Boxer Manny Pacquiao, of the Philippines, laughs during a news conference at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas, Wednesday, April 29, 2009.

"I wasn't feeling too well and also I wanted to take care of everything at home so it was ready when Manny got home," she said. "I love the United States. It's wonderful. I have wanted to come here for a long time."

Pacquiao, who has starred in Filipino action movies and spoken about running for Congress in his homeland next year, pleased his mother the most by learning the lessons she taught of humility and generosity.

"It's the way he processes everything, humbly and with kindness," she said.

Pacquiao always says that his main goal from fights is to bring happiness and entertain the people of his homeland and fight for Filipino pride.

"I will do my best to give a good show," Pacquiao said.

What "PacMan" rarely talks about are the gifts he provides for poor people in his homeland.

"Everyone knows what life is like in the Philippines," he said. "I'm just trying to do anything to give happiness – food, clothes – and go out to help people have a better way of life."

The 30-year-old southpaw remains a bettors' favorite over Hatton, the brawling British "Hitman" who hopes to claim Pacquiao's world recognized "pound-for-pound" champion's crown for himself.

Cory to have surgery; bishop urges prayers

By FE ZAMORA
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—Former President Corazon Aquino will undergo a medical procedure to remove a portion of her colon afflicted with cancer cells, her social secretary Margie Juico said Thursday.

"She has finally agreed to it," Juico said in a telephone interview.

She did not specify when the procedure will be carried out.

Balanga Bishop Socrates Villegas called for a rosary prayer crusade "for the total healing" of Aquino.

Villegas urged the public to pray the rosary and receive Holy Communion every day from May 1, the feast of St. Joseph the Worker, until May 13, the feast of Our Lady of Fatima.

According to Juico, the family of the former president has been trying to convince her to undergo the procedure. Juico said the doctors had found that Aquino's cancer cells were confined to a section in the colon.

"The former President is in high spirits. She's OK," Juico said.

She said that Aquino had been reporting for work in her office in Makati despite the chemo treatment to cure her cancer.

"She comes in at 10 and leaves at 5 p.m.," Juico added.

According to Juico, Aquino has a special devotion to the Our Lady of Fatima on May 13.

Rosary made by Sister Lucia

"When I was yet private secretary of the late Jaime Cardinal Sin, I had the privilege to meet with Sister Lucia, one of the Fatima visionaries. The saintly visionary told Cardinal Sin to give President Cory a rosary that Sister Lucia herself made in the monastery. She told Cardinal Sin to tell President Cory that 'You, Corazon, are a blessing for the Philippines,'" Villegas recounted.

Acts of charity

"By the power of the rosary, we won our freedom at EDSA in 1986. By the power of the same rosary, let us ask for the total healing and full cure of her who was a symbol of God's blessings for the Philippines," the bishop said.

Villegas added: "I personally know how devoted President Cory is to the rosary and Our Lady of Fatima. Let this prayer crusade be our expression of love for her and our expression of faith in the Lord."

Aside from praying the rosary and receiving communion, Villegas also urged those who will join the prayer crusade to "make acts of charity for the poor and give alms to the least, the last and the lost in our midst."

Philippines threatens to deport foreign protesters

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippine immigration chief warned foreign activists on Thursday that they can be deported for taking part in protests after a demonstration by members of the animal rights group PETA.

Bikini-clad protesters from People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals went to the Manila Zoo on Tuesday and posed for photographers while wearing heart-shaped signs that read "Have a Heart, Boycott the Zoo" over their suits.

Immigration Commissioner Marcelino Libanan said the activists—from Canada, Australia and Argentina—violated the conditions of their tourist visas and would be deported if they did not stop.

"They cannot just protest here, especially if it violates the culture of Filipinos," he said. "Foreigners should have no business joining these mass actions because it is tantamount to meddling in our country's internal affairs."

Activist Ashley Furno of Canada called the warning a shock because there was nothing in their visas to prohibit protesting. She also contends that the bikinis were tame compared with what can be seen widely on television and in magazines in the Philippines.

AP

Australian Fawn Porter of the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, PETA, and othe scantily-clad women protesters hold slogans in front of Manila Zoo, Philippines on Tuesday, April 28, 2009. The animal rights group is calling for a boycott of the zoo for allegedly making animals live like prisoners behind bars.

"It won't stop our protests, and it won't stop us from speaking for animals," she added.

Norfolk, Virginia-based PETA is known for staging untraditional protests and taking out provocative ads to raise awareness about animal rights.

The liberal alliance Bayan said a Japanese activist who took part in 2002 protests against U.S.-Philippine military exercises was put on a flight back to Japan on Wednesday after he arrived at Manila's airport to take part in a labor gathering.

Gordon commends Journey's lead singer

MANILA, Philippines—Senator Richard Gordon on Thursday commended Arnel Pineda, the Filipino lead singer of American rock band Journey, for exemplifying the international success of the Filipino.

Gordon, chairman of the Senate tourism committee, filed Senate Resolution 1039 which commends Pineda's achievements and exhorts his talents that inspired national pride and personified the success of the Global Filipino.

"Arnel Pineda is an inspiration to many Filipinos, a man who triumphed not only in singing competitions, but against hardship and adversity, through hard work and with full faith in his talents and capabilities," he said in a statement.

Pineda rose from obscurity to international fame by believing in himself and his talent. When his mother passed away when he was 12 years old, his family became heavily indebted and led him to the streets to fend for himself for years.

He had to quit school and help his father by collecting glass bottles, newspapers, and scrap metal and selling them to recyclers, even as he took on odd jobs, like cleaning scrap metal and docked ships.

The hard and trying times pushed Pineda to pursue his dream so that, at the age of 40, after singing with different bands in the Philippines and Hong Kong, he was discovered by the lead guitarist, Neal Schon, of Journey.

Journey's first album produced with Pineda as the lead singer, "Revelation", debuted at No. 5 in the Billboard Top 200 album charts in the week following its release and achieved platinum status by October 1, 2008.

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***BRUCE L. MAILMAN** is a member of the American Immigration Lawyers Association and has provided immigration services in the CNMI since 1989*

***MAYA B. KARA** is a former CNMI Acting Attorney General, Chief Legislative Counsel, Governor's and Lt. Governor's Legal Counsel and DOL Hearing Officer*

Lozada to remain under Manila police custody

AP

A protester shouts slogans to show her sympathy for jailed corruption witness Rodolfo Lozada Jr. in front of the police headquarters Wednesday, April 29, 2009 in Manila, Philippines.

By ERIKA SAULER
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—Whistleblower Rodolfo Lozada Jr. will have to remain at the Manila Police District-Warrant Section until the court resolves a motion by Bishop Broderick Pabillo and issues a commitment order, a city legal officer said.

Pabillo had filed an urgent motion to detain Lozada at the MPD-District Special Project Unit in the Manila City Hall instead of the Manila City Jail, lawyer Glenda Madeo told the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

Lozada was arrested because of a perjury case filed by former presidential aide Michael Defensor.

Judge Jorge Emmanuel Lorredo of the Metropolitan Trial Court of Manila Branch 26, however, was on leave and could not act on the motion.

Madeo said they went to the pairing judge, Romeo Rabaca of MTC Branch 25, but he declined to hear the motion because he had a scheduled jail visitation.

Executive Judge Sarah Alma Lim also refused to resolve the motion saying that she would rather have the presiding judge act on it, Madeo said.

Lozada's arraignment was set on May 7 while the hearing on Pabillo's motion was scheduled on May 8.

Lozada's lawyer is confident that the case will be dismissed.

"We have a lot evidence. In fact, we're looking forward to questioning the witnesses of the prosecution," lawyer Jose Manuel Diokno said.

Several personalities have visited Lozada at the MPD, including Senator Manuel Roxas II, Kabataan Partylist Representative Raymond Palatino, and Leah Navarro from the Black and White Movement.

"Nakikita namin na dito sa mga taong tumayo at nagsabi ng totoo, sila pa ang nakakasuhan at sobrang bilis ng gulong ng hustisya laban sa kanila [We saw here how the wheels of justice grind against those who stand up for the truth]," Roxas said.

Roxas said he also intended to file a resolution for the Senate to regain custody over Lozada, who testified before the Blue Ribbon committee's investigation on the alleged overprice of the government's botched $329-million contract with China's ZTE Corp. for the National Broadband Network project.

Defensor filed the charges following Lozada's statement that the former palace official urged him to lie that he was kidnapped upon his arrival at the airport from Hongkong in January 2008.

Stop posturing, ex-Arroyo aide Defensor told

By TJ BURGONIO
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—Former Cabinet officials on Thursday twitted Michael Defensor for acting as if he were the victim, and threw their support behind whistle blower Rodolfo Lozada Jr.

"We call on Mike Defensor to stop posturing as if he is the aggrieved person, even as he was clearly a participant in the cover-up of what became an aborted abduction of Jun Lozada," the Former Senior Government Officials said in a statement.

"What moral values does he hope to impart to his young children with his vain and obstinate defense of injured pride, while participating in the cover up of gross abuses against our people and our laws?" the group said.

The FSGO exhorted the public to express outrage over the arrest and imprisonment of Lozada over perjury charges filed by Defensor.

"We enjoin all sectors of our society to protest Lozada's incarceration in the strongest terms, and show to the world that we are not helpless in fighting for our rights and freedoms, that we have not, as a people, surrendered to evil," they said.

The FSGO decried the arrest of Lozada over "flimsy and concocted" perjury charges.

This, they said, stood in stark contrast with the freedom enjoyed by personalities accused of more serious crimes such as former agriculture undersecretary Jocelyn Bolante, former Commission on Elections chairman Benjamin Abalos, former socioeconomic planning secretary Romulo Neri, former justice secretary Hernando B. Perez, former Comelec commissioner Virgilio Garcillano, Jesus Martinez and retired police general Eliseo dela Paz.

'Study OFW med requirements for Middle East'

By LIRA DALANGIN-FERNANDEZ
INQUIRER.NET

MANILA, Philippines—The Palace should make a pitch before the governments of Gulf states, including Saudi Arabia, to relax its policy of requiring overseas Filipino workers bound for the Middle East to undergo medical examinations in an exclusive group of clinics.

At the hearing of the committee on overseas workers affairs, Paranaque Rep. Roilo Golez asked the committee to "convey to the executive branch to work it out with the Saudi government" on how to resolve the problems encountered by the Filipino workers with regards to the "Gamca" system.

John Monterola, Middle East region coordinator of Migrante, said it was time for the government to intervene "to stop this practice."

The "referral decking system" is a centralized medical referral system established in 2001 by Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states—Saudi Arabia, Oman, Qatar, Kuwait, United Arab Emirates and Bahrain supposedly to stop the proliferation of fake medical certificates and the transfer of communicable diseases from foreign workers to citizens of the GCC-member countries.

Filipino workers leaving for these four countries are required to get medical certificate from the Gulf Cooperation Council-(GCC) Accredited Medical Clinics Association (Gamca), which only has 22 accredited clinics all over the country.

Nueva Vizcaya Rep. Carlos Padilla questioned why only the Gamca-accredited clinics could issue medical certificates to the workers.

Gabriela party list Representative Luz Ilagan also criticized the monopoly of the decking system.

TAKE CHARGE OF YOUR MONEY

How to prepare for job loss

Editor's Note: This is part of Take Charge of Your Money, a partnership between INQUIRER.net and Citibank to help readers handle their personal finances well.

Question: With reports of companies downsizing and laying off people, the thought crossed my mind that I might lose my job. What would become of me if I lose my job? How can one prepare for the loss of a job? I hope it doesn't happen to me.—Nina

Answer: The global financial crisis has affected some industries around the world. Companies abroad that are into car manufacturing as well as electronics have been deeply affected. The banking and financial industry has also been hit with the collapse of firms like Lehman Brothers.

While financial experts maintain that the Philippines is still poised for economic growth this year, although at a slower pace, it does seem wise to prepare for the worst. So we understand your concern for the need to prepare for a job loss.

Here are practical ways to be prepared should you lose your job unexpectedly:

1. Build up an emergency fund to cover eight months' worth of expenses. Financial experts have long advised people to put away an emergency fund to cover three to six months' worth of regular expenses. With the way the worldwide economy is taking a beating, it is wise to prepare for at least eight months' worth of expenses tucked away in a fund.

The purpose of an emergency fund, as the name implies, is to ease the financial burden on you and your family when emergencies arise. With an emergency fund, you will be able to pay your usual bills and live the way you used to until you get back on track.

'Emergencies' by definition here include a sudden illness, job loss, or a tragic incident happening to a member of the family. As such, refrain from touching this fund during non-emergencies. For instance, if you need money to fund a vacation, try to find other means to come up with the funds needed; don't touch your emergency fund.

Now eight months' worth of expenses may seem a lot and overwhelming. Start by saving regularly little by little and give up little luxuries you don't really need. Put this in a separate savings account. In time, as you become more committed to saving, your emergency fund will grow. Then put this money to work by investing it in a special time deposit, retail treasury bonds, or money market funds so it may earn more while you don't need it yet.

2. Update your resume. It doesn't hurt to always keep your CV updated. Include your present job description in your resume so would-be employers can easily see what you can do. Go over your resume and keep the layout clear and uncluttered. Refer to sample resumes on the Internet or in management books.

3. Network. Remain in contact with old classmates and officemates, even family friends and relatives. Be interested in what they do and keep track of how they may be of help to you in the future. In the event that you lose your job, one of them may know of a job opening in the company he works for or in another company. Don't burn your bridges.

4. Learn new skills. Keep yourself relevant by learning new skills. If you're an office person, learn how to do your own PowerPoint and video presentations. Take a weekend class at a university. Classes such as candle-making, soap-making, cooking, photography, and storytelling may benefit you in the future if you're interested in those activities.

5. Get into the habit of reading job advertisements in newspapers and websites. Find out what skills are important in the job you're aspiring for and try to learn those skills. Some job ads also indicate the salary offered, so this will let you know how much salary to ask from your next employer. By looking at job ads, you will also be able to apply right away for a job as soon as you lose your present post.

If the unfortunate happens

If you do lose your job, don't despair. It is not yet the end of the world. Look on the bright side and see what opportunities are open to you. Aside from applying for a new job, starting a new business is also an option.

Most companies will offer a separation pay to employees losing their jobs. Review your company manual and find out how much you are entitled to. Compute for your unused sick leaves and vacation leaves. In many cases, these may be paid for in cash by the company. Check the computation of your separation pay with your personnel department and the cash equivalent of unused leaves.

When you receive your separation pay, use most of it to beef up your emergency fund. Don't splurge it on something you don't really need (a plasma TV or a new camera, for instance). Use it sparingly to fund your current lifestyle until you find a new job or income source. We wish you the best!

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Maharlika – Pinoy Style

INQUIRER EXCLUSIVE

Kris: I felt used, discarded

By MARINEL CRUZ
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

The battle for scoops and exclusive reports on TV has claimed a humiliated victim: Kris Aquino.

"I felt we were used and then discarded," the TV host said after Sen. Mar Roxas and long-time girlfriend Korina Sanchez announced their wedding plans on ABS-CBN's noontime show "Wowowee"—and not on any of her programs aired by the same network.

"They promised to give us details of the engagement and the sit-down interview," said Kris, who shares co-hosting chores with Boy Abunda on the gossip-oriented programs "The Buzz" and "Showbiz News Ngayon." She also hosts the game show "Pinoy Bingo Nights."

"I thought I would be able to deliver it for Boy," added Kris, "but I failed. Napahiya ako."

What are your thoughts on the issue?

It's not a secret that Boy supports Manny Villar. I told Boy, "Come election time you can choose who you want to support, but can you do this with me for now?"

Inalagaan namin ito sa 'SNN.' I said, "Let's protect the exclusive. Let's give them this concession." Our staff worked on several stories for weeks, kasi nga we were building it up for the exclusive announcement. We were supposed to break the news (two weeks ago), kaya lang nangyari nga yung kay Ted (Failon).

I know it wasn't (Mar and Korina's) fault. Nagso-sorry sila. Yesterday, Korina sent six flower arrangements. Mar sent a really long text message. His mom is my ninang. For the entire time my dad was in jail, bawat "Holiday On Ice" or "Disney" show, front row seats ako sa Araneta Coliseum kasi naawa sa akin si Ninang Judy. It really goes that far back. So parang napahiya ako kasi I said: "He (Mar) is my kinakapatid."

I get the situation. Ang sa akin lang, I placed myself on a limb here. Pinagbigyan ako ni Boy, tapos nawala. Boy pointed out na hindi ganoon kalalim ang relationship namin with Ryan (Agoncillo) and Judai (Santos), and yet their only sit-down interview is with us. Naikukumpara lang.

The night before (the "Wowowee" appearance), they (Mar and Korina) were already texting me. They said that because it's free-wheeling 'di mo alam kung ano'ng pwedeng mangyari. They asked me if it's OK. Alangan naman sabihin kong "don't!" Baka magalit pa si Willie sa akin.

My point is, limang linggo naming inalagaan ito. Naiyak lang ako kasi parang ako ang naiipit. This morning, Noy (Aquino, senator and Kris' elder brother) said, "Tumawag ka na sa kanila."

But you're not ready yet?

I will be. Touched naman ako sa effort nila. In their letter to me they said: "Please believe that we greatly appreciate all your support. You have to know we believe you are an irreplaceable ally. But first and foremost you are a dear friend and family. 'Wag ka na magalit, please. We were overtaken by events, trapped in something unforeseen, if only you know all the details. We can only hope you will understand and we feel very bad you got upset. We love you forever. With much palangga, always, Mar and Korina."

Kris Aquino feels bad about Sen. Mar Roxas and Korina Sanchez's decision to announce their wedding plans on ABS-CBN's "Wowowee" and not on any of her programs.

Ayaw kong maging mababaw. On a Wednesday, I was asked to do a VTR for the "Wowowee" Saturday episode. We could've preempted our Friday episode for them, para yung sit-down interview sa amin.

We heard that you have plans to run for public office, too.

I promised my mom I won't run. People say I'm perfect for it. My mom always says, "With Kris' lifestyle she can't afford it." The last thing she wants is for me to become corrupt.

I'm also scared because I don't want to disappoint my mom. I really want to protect her legacy. I really think that if I get into it, it will be if I'm sure hindi ko gagalawin ang country development fund; if I'm sure I can live simply. Bilib ako kay Tito Nene Pimentel and Mayor (Alfredo) Lim, kung ano ang car nila noon, 'yun pa rin ngayon.

How much are you worth now?

Not much.

P50 million?

I'm worth more naman! Wala kasi kaming utang ni James. 'Yun ang pwede naming ipagmalaki. We have investments that are already earning money. We know our work is not forever. It's my mom who says "While it's there, take care of it." Pinapagalitan n'ya ako kapag maluho ako.

Is this why you don't own a Hermes bag?

My mom made me promise not to buy one for myself. She said, "You better promise me. Or else I will really be upset."

What's the most expensive bag that she owns?

Ang mga nice bags niya galing lahat sa akin, except maybe two or three that she bought abroad, sale pa. Now, I don't give her bags anymore, rich na kasi ako—cars na! In 2006, I bought her a Previa. In 2008, I gave her a Super Grandia. Each year, when she celebrates her birthday, I give her a month's worth of my salary in ABS-CBN. She would say, "It's too much! I'm putting it in a time deposit for your kids so when I die, all of it would go back to them."

What would you consider your luho?

Shoes. I didn't know that my Ate told mom kung magkano ang mga sapatos ko. She said, "That's too much, Krissy!" Ngayon kapag nagku-kwento ako about my shoes 'di ko na lang sinasabing mahal.

Don't you have plans of having another baby?

I really don't know yet, baka I'll die. When I had Baby James, I had eclampsia. My blood pressure went up to 200/120. My lungs, kidney and liver collapsed. My mom said, "Krissy, while I'm sick, please, don't. 'Yan ang ikamamatay ko—worrying about you."

There are rumors that you were partly responsible for Cristy Fermin's expulsion from "The Buzz."

I will not deny that I was given that prerogative. Tita Cory (Vidanes, ABS-CBN TV head) told me: "It was your show first and if you want to get back, we can put her elsewhere." My mom taught me, "Nobody should ever lose a job because of you, kahit sinaktan ka pa." That's what I told Tita Cory, and even Jobert (Sucaldito, co-host) when he asked me when I was going back. Hindi ako nagpapaka Mother Teresa, I just don't want it to happen to me in the future when I'm no longer Kris Aquino.

Ai Ai de las Alas said she now considers Sharon Cuneta her best friend. She said that unlike James, Sen. Kiko Pangilinan likes her.

Of course she'd say that. They have a movie 'di ba (laughs)? They really had a lot of bonding time. I don't mind that she said that. As my mom said, Baka tawagin na naman niya akong impaktita.

She said unlike you, Sharon gave her pricey jewelry pieces. She said what she got from you was just a Gucci bag.

It's true. Kasi ang laki ng binayaran ko sa BIR. Issuing a check for the BIR was really painful. I really, really cried.

18-hour labor leaves Vina exhausted

By MARINEL CRUZ
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—Pagod na pagod ako (I'm exhausted)," Vina Morales told her first visitors a few hours after she delivered baby Ceana Saturday morning.

The singer-actress labored for 18 hours. Prior to this, she worked until she was six months pregnant. Now she is taking a well-deserved long break from show business, according to ABS-CBN's Star Magic.

It was a normal delivery for Vina. The baby, at 6.9 lbs, was proclaimed healthy. Exact time of birth was recorded at 8:47 a.m.

Mother and daughter are expected to be discharged today or tomorrow from the Cardinal Santos Medical Center in San Juan.

Priorities

Her handler, Love Capulong, told Inquirer that Vina's immediate plan is to "personally care for the baby, then get back in shape." Capulong said the singer has finished "all pending show biz commitments."

Vina was admitted to the hospital at 2 p.m. on Friday. "She said labor took a while because the baby was shy," said Capulong. Actually, her doctors were expecting Vina to give birth as early as April 10.

A few days before Ceana was born, Vina's younger sister Shaina Magdayao said, "Everything's ready, including the baby's room. Ate's friends hosted several baby showers; she didn't have to buy anything more."

Vina earlier said "Ceana" was a combination of her name and that of her boyfriend, businessman Cedric Lee (though her real name is Sharon Magdayao). "Ceana also means God is gracious," the singer said on the Sunday variety show "ASAP '09."

Friends happySinger Gary Valenciano, Vina's co-host in "ASAP '09," had this to say: "We rejoice with Vina and pray for her healing. [We also pray] God would shower her with the strength, love and wisdom that she will need to raise Ceana according to God's word."

Actress-TV host Gelli de Belen, who worked with Vina in five movies in the 1990s, was also happy to hear the news: "I know she's very excited. I hope she enjoys her baby and spends as much time with her as she can. And she should prepare for a lot of sleepless nights."

Singer Rachel Alejandro said she was sure Ceana "will grow up as beautiful as her mother." Rachel added, "The last time I saw her, she was simply glowing and looked really at peace."

How well do you know your favorite stars?

By DOLLY ANNE CARVAJAL
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

A lot of readers e-mailed to say they enjoyed my column about celebrity trivia.

Here's a follow-up, another chance to be privy to unknown details about them, so "feeling close" ka sa kanila even just for a Dollywood moment.

■ Vilma Santos leaves her makeup sponges soaked in ice cold water.

■ Aga Muhlach used to love biting the edges of his blanket like a rat when he was a kid. That's how his nickname "Aga" was coined (short for "daga").

■ Marvin Agustin sleeps with his bow. He's that passionate about archery.

■ Karylle can't eat a cheeseburger without the fries lined up neatly between the burger and the bun—plus extra catsup.

■ Dingdong Dantes types on the computer keyboard in "slow motion."

■ Christian Bautista has to eat at least one piece of chocolate a day.

■ Maricel Soriano uses cloth diaper instead of a face towel.

■ Korina Sanchez does her Christmas gift wrapping personally with a particular motif and signature flair.

■ Cesar Montano plants his own herbs and spices for his resto Bellisimo.

■ Gabby Concepcion's fave pastime is restoring vintage cars which he sells to close friends.

■ Assunta de Rossi always washes her underwear before taking a bath.

■ Alessandra Rossi swears she will never drink again after experiencing a terrible hangover.

■ Paolo Santos doesn't take a bath before a golf game because he thinks it's unlucky.

■ Martin Nievera used to dread looking at Pops Fernandez's foot because she told him in jest that she has six toes.

■ Dina Bonnevie had a name for the "ghost" in their Quezon City home when she was still single. She would call out this name whenever one of her things was missing.

■ Joey de Leon collects T-shirts of all the restos and bars he has visited abroad.

■ Gina Alajar snorts when she laughs.

■ Albert Martinez's pet name is "Little."

■ Nino Muhlach prefers ostrich eggs to the usual chicken eggs.

■ Donita Rose is so O.C. about cleanliness that she cleans her house herself and makes sure that she wipes off any smudge on a mirror or glass.

■ Zsazsa Padilla likes to arrange the money on her wallet according to denomination—from big to small bills. She sleeps with the lights on and only wears pajamas. Her underwear has to match all the time. And lastly, she keeps her computer on sleep mode.

Maharlika – Opinyon

I have two hands

This is the way justice works in this country: On one hand, Jun Lozada is desperately fighting for his freedom, if not his life. One is tempted to add that for some people they are pretty much the same thing: Freedom is life, and life freedom, and ne'er the twain shall diverge. But it is literal in this case. The reason Lozada has guarded his freedom jealously, insisting on remaining with the La Salle brothers rather than seeking refuge elsewhere, or indeed going back to his former life, is that he fears for his life. In the hands of the authorities, his life is cheaper than a peso. The phrase in fact for him is, "in the clutches of the authorities."

Lozada is fighting for his freedom now because another judge has reversed an earlier ruling dismissing Mike Defensor's complaint of perjury against him. The new judge found merit in Defensor's charge after all, proving that judges in this country are called that because they are able to weigh very carefully the value not of legal cases but of attaché cases, the merits not of oral arguments but of arguments on paper of the various heroes.

Such apparently is the court's fear that Lozada will jump bail (after he has holed out for what seems a lifetime in La Salle Green Hills, despite not lacking in offers for asylum abroad) it refuses to release him into the custody of Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim.

Who is the man accusing Lozada of perjury? He is the same man who abducted Panfilo Lacson's chief witness in his exposé on Jose Pidal and called it a rescue. He is the same man who brought in an American expert to say that the "Hello, Garci" tape was doctored, only to have the same expert say it was not. He has something profoundly in common with President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. And that is not height.

On the other hand, Jovito Palparan is enjoying the fruits of, well, he and his boss call it "labors." The grieving widows and mothers and children of his victims have other words for it. He looks every inch like a cat who has just swallowed the canary having just been promoted congressman.

He has never been prosecuted for massacring political activists to fight communism even as his boss was busy selling this country to the biggest communist country on earth, which is China. In fact, his boss has been ecstatic about his work, promoting him to higher positions in the military.

Who has accused him of being a mass murderer? Jose Melo—at least when he headed the commission to investigate the killings, and was still bothered by things like this and still thought no nation ever moved forward without justice. And Philip Alston who carried the weight of the United Nations with him when he spoke. One is tempted to say that Raul Gonzalez should look in the mirror first before calling anybody a "muchacho," but the absolute terror the image there is bound to induce in the looker must make you not wish that even on your worst enemy.

On one hand, Ted Failon continues to fear for his freedom as well. Despite all of his family, including all of his wife's siblings, insisting his wife committed suicide the authorities are determined to find him guilty. The world saw the police in action last week, carting off Failon's in-laws and staff while they tarried at Trinidad Etong's hospital bed, giving her words of encouragement, egging her to live on. They went on to manhandle them because they would not leave. Elsewhere in the world, there is no more compelling reason to leave well enough alone than when someone demands to be on the side of dying kin. And Failon and his kin were not even suspects.

There's The Rub

By CONRADO DE QUIROS
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Today, despite the preponderance of physical evidence showing Trinidad to have taken her own life, the police are not satisfied. They are not satisfied because they say it is quite possible that Trinidad might have been murdered elsewhere and dumped in the bathroom. They are not satisfied because, as Gonzalez says, they have someone who claims to have been at the scene before everybody else, whose identity they cannot disclose, who says it was not suicide. In fact they are not satisfied because, attempting to prove their case by insinuation and innuendo, they find it quite impossible that someone who has been critical about the way they have been rubbing out suspects and the way this regime has been conducting business can possibly be innocent.

On the other hand, Daniel Smith has been sprung out of jail. Despite the preponderance of evidence against him, he has been found innocent by a higher—legally, if not morally—court. With no Nicole to insist on the crime, the court has ruled there is no crime. "Sprung out of jail" is a figure of speech; it is doubtful if he ever spent time in it, other than his short stint in a cell in Jojo Binay's favorite city.

He is not the first criminal to be freed in this country in recent months. This year alone, several of them have been so or about to be so. They include: the murderers of Ninoy Aquino, despite the protestations of the Aquinos that the killers neither acknowledged their guilt nor repented; Claudio Teehankee Jr., the murderer of Maureen Hultman and Roland Chapman, who too never repented, and who, if the Hultmans are to be believed, might as well have been spending time in Boracay; Roberto Manero, the bald-headed cultist who ate the brains of Fr. Tullio Favali after he murdered him; Rodolfo Manalili who masterminded the murders of sweethearts Cochise Bernabe and Beebom Castaños; Romeo Jalosjos, the man who loved women, or loved to rape little girls.

This regime may not be able to attract investors to these shores, but it will be able to attract murderers and rapists to it.

That is the way justice works in this country. If you are guilty, be happy. If you are innocent, be afraid. Be very, very afraid.

The 'biggest' US president

Each time we ascend the heights to Baguio, halfway through the zigzag of Kennon Road or past the spot on the Marcos Highway where the face of the former president once gazed upon the land, car windows are rolled down to check whether the temperature is indeed lower than Manila's. In my childhood, the air-conditioner was shut off halfway up the mountain so the engine would have an easier time and we could smell the scent of pine. Today you keep the aircon on even in downtown Baguio because the scent of pine has been replaced by exhaust fumes from cars and jeepneys clogging Session Road. Nevertheless, a trip to Baguio is always a treat, the cool air refreshing to both body and spirit.

Sometimes on the way up Kennon Road I would imagine beyond childhood memory and try to picture Baguio a century ago. Baguio will celebrate its 100th birthday this coming September and we hope that the city and its people do something significant. We hope it will not just be an exercise in nostalgia but rather a way to see what can be done to preserve Baguio's heritage and bring back some of the features that made the Americans carve a summer capital for the Philippines there.

Looking Back

By AMBETH OCAMPO
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

William Howard Taft (1857-1930), whose oversized bathtub was recently displayed in the U.S. National Archives in Washington, D.C., was appointed in 1900 the first US civilian governor-general of the Philippines. (That's why we have Taft Avenue in Manila that some lawmakers, insensitive to history, have been trying to rename in honor of Aguinaldo, Aglipay and recently Diokno.) He later rose to become the 27th president of the United States and then 10th chief justice of the Supreme Court of the United States.

The replica of the Taft bathtub is proof that Taft was the "biggest" US president. He was six feet and two inches tall and was heaviest at 332 pounds. One day he got stuck in the White House bathtub and required six men to pull him out, so he had a new one installed that could fit four normal sized men. Unfortunately, the tub cracked when it was removed from the White House after his term.

It seems that Taft coped with stress by eating because he lost a substantial amount of weight after the presidency, when he became chief justice, a position he truly enjoyed.

We have a record of a feast that was prepared for him on a visit to Cebu, and photographs and eyewitness record of the feasts prepared for him when he visited Iloilo. In Jaro, one of the houses of a wealthy citizen, not the government house, was "beautifully decorated and the refreshments were served in the large room at the left of the hall; the buffet luncheon consisted of every kind of cake and sweetmeats, champagne, wine, and beer." Emily Bronson Conger, who wrote "An Ohio Woman in the Philippines," (1904) also describes the sit-down dinner held in honor of Taft:

"Thirty-five of us sat down to a very sumptuous banquet of about eighteen courses. The menu of soup, fish, game, birds, salads was very quickly served, a waiter for each guest. The table was furnished with much silver and cut glass, and at each plate was a bouquet holder with napkin ring attached; there were after-dinner speeches by Governor Taft, Judge Wright, and others; then we were ushered into the large drawing-room, where coffee and cigars were served. The room had been especially prepared by the labor of many days spent on tacking flags on the ceiling and side walls, making a very beautiful effect. There were huge bunches of artificial flowers. For the entertainment at this house, all the Filipino bands from the surrounding towns were massed together. Governor Taft complimented his hosts upon their very delightful 'entretener,' and said he had seen nothing to compare it for elegance and enthusiastic welcome since he had been on the islands. At every corner of the plaza there were erected handsome bamboo arches and booths, and every strip of bunting and every flag that could be got out were waving in Jaro on this great day of inauguration of the Civil Commission on the Island of Panay."

A cache of Taft photographs was discovered in the U.S. that includes some from this Iloilo visit. Perhaps U.S. Ambassador Kristie Kenney can arrange for duplicates to be exhibited here and later stored in either the National Historical Institute or the American Historical Collection.

Pictures are truly worth more than a thousand words and, when used together with the texts on Taft's visits around the country, they can make history more engaging.

Speaking of pictures, there is a famous photograph of Taft on a horse taken when he visited Baguio to recover from ill health. While in the Philippines he was stricken with assorted bugs, including dengue and amoebic dysentery. Taft sent this photograph to U.S. Secretary of War Elihu Root with a note that read, "Went on horseback today; feeling good." Upon receipt Root cabled back to the Philippines, "How is horse?"

Taft must have been an imposing presence—literally and figuratively— and we hope he is not overlooked in the Baguio Centennial. We also hope our lawmakers will leave Taft Avenue alone and look up other alleys, streets, avenues and hi-ways with generic names like C-5, Coastal Road, North and South Luzon Expressway to honor some prominent personalities.

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu.

EDITORIAL

Healthy opportunity

Health Secretary Francisco Duque and other health officials are doing a pretty good job in issuing timely, sober, updates to the public concerning the government's response to swine flu.

The government response has been swift, and, so far, reasonable. Idle speculation by talkative officials has been avoided and the precautions that have been announced are in keeping with measures being taken elsewhere upon the advice of the World Health Organization.

Two additional measures, however, need to be taken, as they are outside the purview of Duque's Department of Health.

The first is, greater scrutiny of airport arrivals, in particular, the places of origins of visitors. The data supplied by arrivals on their immigration cards only enumerate the airport of origin of the particular flight arriving in Manila. A visitor who originated in Mexico City, for example, and went to Manila via Los Angeles, would only list LA. Immigration authorities need to look more closely at passports to see if there are departure stamps from places where there is concern over swine flu.

The second involves stricter procedures on the part of the Department of Agriculture and its agencies. Local hog raisers have attributed past epidemics that decimated the swine population to smuggled live hogs and frozen pork carcasses. This means that our notoriously porous—because poorly-patrolled, and corruptly controlled—ports need to be the focus of official attention.

Of course, officialdom can only go so far, and do so much; the rest requires the vigilance, calmness and cooperation of the public.

A vaccine for the particular strain (H1N1 swine flu) of influenza causing international concern might take anywhere from four to six months to develop; genetic sequencing of the strain has only just begun.

However, health experts do say that existing flu drugs can be effective, but must be administered within 48 to 72 hours of symptoms manifesting in patients.

This is the kind of public health situation that should be tailor-fit to the barangay. Surveillance is crucial, and then, timely medical intervention. But the public needs to be told what it should be aware of, in terms of symptoms, and where to go, in case those symptoms show up.

Barangay health centers, then, should be the first line of defense; and a rational system for referrals to municipal and then national health centers should also be put in place.

Heightened public concern and awareness of the swine flu problem provides a rare opportunity for a kind of saturation drive in terms of basic public health information.

This is the kind of information drive that has potentially lasting effects: think of the improvement in public health and sanitation that would arise from more citizens refraining from open mouth coughing, spitting in public, or forgetting to wash their hands.

Times of stress and uncertainty can either bring out the worst or the best in people. The chances of the former exceed the latter if ignorance is banished and, instead, the population is armed with information that is relevant and accurate.

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Samu't Sari

Steady decline in Pinoy, Asian priests in US

By ISAGANI DE LA PAZ
WWW.OFWJOURNALISM.NET

QUEZON CITY—For nearly a decade, the Catholic Church in the United States has had steady supply of priests from Asia, with the Philippines one of the oases in the Sahara-like career of priesthood.

But the numbers have been decreasing, a survey commissioned by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops revealed.

The report titled "The Class of 2009: Survey of Ordinands to the Priesthood," found out that a quarter of ordinands—persons being ordained to priesthood—were born outside the US, with the largest numbers coming from Mexico, Vietnam, Poland and the Philippines.

"Religious order ordinands are slightly more likely than diocesan ordinands to be foreign-born," said the report commissioned to the Washington, DC-based Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate of Georgetown University.

The report, however, noted that while the "percentage of ordinands who are foreign-born increased from 22 percent in 1999 to 38 percent in 2003," this share "has declined since that point and is now at 24 percent in 2009."

The report added that while the percentage of foreign-born ordinands from religious institutes has fluctuated somewhat since 1999, due to the relatively smaller number of religious ordinands, the diocesan percentage has remained relatively steady at approximately 20 to 30 percent of all diocesan ordinands.

Priests from religious congregations take three vows, including the vow of poverty.

This year's ordination class claims 11 percent Asian-born men, a statement by the USCB said.

However, the percentage of Asian Catholics in the US is only 3 percent. But the statement didn't cite a concrete figure.

Six percent of the class is from Vietnam and 2 percent from the Philippines.

The survey had a response rate of approximately 70 percent of the 465 potential ordinands reported by theologates, houses of formation, dioceses, and religious institutes. They included 239 men being ordained for dioceses and 71 for religious orders, such as the Jesuits, Dominicans and Franciscans. Another 15 ordinands did not specify whether they were being ordained for dioceses or religious orders.

Table: Country of Birth and Age at Entry to United States of Ordinands

Country of origin	All	Diocesan	Religious
United States	76%	77%	70%
Vietnam	6	3	15
Mexico	5	6	1
Poland	3	3	1
Philippines	2	2	1
Colombia	1	2	0
Other countries	7	7	12

Three in four responding ordinands were born in the United States.

Source: US Conference of Catholic Bishops

Responding ordinands represent 112 dioceses/eparchies and 46 religious congregations.

Last year, the USCCB noted that a third of new priests were born outside the United States, with the largest numbers coming from Mexico, Vietnam, Poland, and the Philippines.

The percentage of foreign-born is nearly the same in 2008 as in 2007 (32 percent compared to 31 percent), but has increased from the 22 percent reported in 1999.

On average, ordinands born in another country have lived in the US for 13 years.

According to a Philippine Senate document, the country remains the second largest in the world in the number of Catholics, with 73 million.

But a Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines intuited there are less than 25,000 priests for this number.

Other findings of the CARA report point to the average age of the class of 2009 as 36.

The report, however, didn't offer a breakdown of age and the ethnic group where the priests belong to.

Still, it said the youngest ordinand in the class is 25; the oldest, 66. Two ordinands are 65 or older, the report said without identifying the nationalities of these priests.

The report also said that half of the responding ordinands (51 percent) attended a Catholic elementary school, "which is a slightly higher rate than that for all US Catholic adults."

"The responding ordinands are highly educated. More than six in ten completed college before entering the seminary. A number of ordinands report that they were recognized for academic achievement." ***OFW Journalism Consortium***

FMI WEEKLY CLEANUPS SCHEDULE

- May 3, 2009: 1st Sunday of the month - Garapan Tourist District, 8am to 10am
- May 10, 2009: 2nd Sunday of the month - ISA Drive from San Vicente Elementary School up to Botanical Garden (Papago), 7:30am to 11:30am
- May 16, 2009: 3rd Saturday of the month - Inside the San Vicente Elementary School, 8am to 12pm
- May 17, 2009: 3rd Sunday of the month - Lau-Lau Bay Road down to the Lau-Lau Beach
- May 24, 2009: 4th Sunday of the month - Airport Road up to ISA Drive (San Vicente Mobil Station), 7:30am to 11:30am

ISLANDWIDE CLEANUP
Members of the Friends of the Marianas pose for a picture after participating in the Islandwide Cleanup held April 17, 2009, as part of celebrations of April as Environmental Awareness Month.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

LAULAU CLEANUP
Members of the Friends of the Marianas conduct a cleanup at the LauLau Beach on April 19, 2009, as part of their regularly scheduled community service projects.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Young Style

Starting a garden from square one

By MARGARET WEBB PRESSLER
(C) 2009, THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON—It was a sunny Saturday morning, and a dozen kids were busy planning their gardens: tomatoes in the back next to the melons, potatoes in the middle, and beans and carrots up front. They carefully counted and spaced out their vegetables, but the dirt they were using was actually squares of brown felt, and the plants were laminated pictures.

The kids were learning the basics of a simple and fun gardening technique called square-foot gardening. The workshop was being held by Big Learning, a company that teaches kids activities using the skills they learn in school.

THE WASHINGTON POST

To start larger vegetables this time of year, such as tomatoes or melons, you should use a small plant. Get advice from your local gardening store or from www.squarefootgardening.com. Be sure to check out the site's online videos.

Square-foot gardening is an easy way to start gardening, says instructor Karen Cole, who founded Big Learning. It doesn't require a lot of space or work, it uses math and organization skills from school, and it's a chance to learn new things.

"Nothing is more engaging than caring for a living thing," said Cole, who has a thriving square-foot garden in her own back yard in Garrett Park, Md. "Living things have a way of presenting problems that need to be solved; they don't just grow automatically, you have to help them. So that gives you even more motivation to learn about them."

THE WASHINGTON POST

In each 12-inch square you can put one of the following: one extra-large plant, four large plants, nine medium plants or 16 small plants, such as carrots.

The basic building block of square-foot gardening is just that: a square of soil that measures one foot by one foot. Guidelines tell you what you can fit in one square (for example, one tomato plant). You can create a bigger garden by putting four, nine or 16 squares together. It's hard to reach the plants in the middle of a garden bigger than that!

The finished product looks very pretty and organized, plus it can produce delicious food all summer.

Rory O'Hollaren, 8, was at the workshop at the Beauvoir School in Washington, where she's a third-grader, and it inspired her to try gardening again. She loves gardening because "you can get dirty and nobody even cares." But last summer, her efforts were not so successful.

How to get gardening

(c) 2009, The Washington Post

A traditional square-foot garden is the size of four, nine or 16 12-inch-by-12-inch squares. To create your garden, you'll need to do a little work first (and probably get a little help from an adult).

1. Build your garden on top of existing soil using planks of wood to make the sides of the box, and line the bottom with something to keep weeds from sprouting. Newspaper works well; you can use the one in your hands!

2. Fill the box with at least six inches of good-quality soil. Then use simple strips of wood or plastic cording to mark off the individual squares where you'll plant your vegetables (or herbs or flowers).

In each 12-inch square you can put one of the following:

- One extra-large plant (tomato, potato, melon).
- Four large plants (lettuce).
- Nine medium plants (peas, bush beans).
- 16 small plants (carrots, radishes).

It's early May, but you can still plant some vegetables using seeds, such as beans or carrots. Drop in at least two seeds, then pinch off the weaker plant once they sprout. To start larger vegetables this time of year, such as tomatoes or melons, you should use a small plant. Get advice from your local gardening store or from www.squarefootgardening.com. Be sure to check out the site's online videos.

The best man for the job was already in it

By FRED BOWEN
Special to The Washington Post

Bowen writes KidsPost's sports opinion column and is an author of sports novels for kids.

WASHINGTON—One question kept popping into my head in the weeks before the National Football League's college draft: Don't the Washington Redskins already have a good young quarterback?

If you missed it, here's what happened to Washington's favorite football team before the NFL draft. First, the Redskins tried hard to make a trade for Jay Cutler, the Denver Broncos' starting quarterback. Cutler, who got upset when the Broncos almost signed another quarterback, ended up with the Chicago Bears.

Then the Redskins tried to make a deal so they could draft Mark Sanchez, the quarterback from the University of Southern California. The New York Jets grabbed Sanchez, and the 'Skins drafted Brian Orakpo, a defensive end from the University of Texas.

Now the Redskins say they are happy with their starting quarterback, Jason Campbell. But it sure seems as if some folks at Redskins Park don't think much of him. After all, they spent most of the last month trying to replace him.

It's not as if Campbell is a bad player. Last year, his quarterback rating was 84.3. That's better than the rating of Ben Roethlisberger (80.1) of the Super Bowl champion Pittsburgh Steelers and not much worse than Jay Cutler's 86.0. True, Campbell didn't play well near the end of the season, but that might have been because the Redskins' offensive line fell apart and the team didn't have enough good receivers.

As for Sanchez, he started only 16 games in college. The defenses in college are not as fast and tough as the defenses in the pros, so it's easier to complete passes in college games. And his team, the University of Southern California Trojans, often was much better than its opponents. Sanchez might turn out to be a fine pro quarterback, but it will take time. My guess is that Campbell will be better than Sanchez for the next few years.

Redskins Fact

Quarterback Jason Campbell threw for 3,245 yards last season. That's a little less than two miles.

(c) 2009, The Washington Post

The Redskins remind me of a spoiled kid who gets bored with a game or toy and before long wants a newer, more expensive one. They think the new toy will be much better than the old one, but, sure enough, they get tired of the new toy after a while and want another.

Sometimes, whether you are a football team or just a kid, it's important to appreciate what you have. Maybe you don't have the absolute best and most expensive basketball shoes, baseball bat or lacrosse stick, but I bet you can play well as well with what you have.

Jason Campbell is young, smart and hardworking. He's getting better every season and has never given his team any problems. Campbell might not be the absolute best quarterback in the NFL, but I bet the Redskins can win with him calling the signals.

That is, if they get him some better offensive linemen and wide receivers.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
Tel. (670) 234-6866, 234-9447, 234-7689, 234-7670 • Fax. (670) 234-9021
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp

NOTICE OF SALE

UNDER POWER OF SALE
IN DEED OF TRUST

ESTHER A. CASTRO and WAYNE T. ALDAN (collectively "Trustor"), on or about September 20, 2001, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on October 2, 2001 under Document No. 01-2164 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

Lot No. 330 R 21 containing an area of 838 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat No. 330 R 02, dated March 13, 1992, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 92-858, dated March 16, 1992, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on March 13, 2009. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on May 29, 2009, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than **$59,940.00**. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Merced M. Tomokane, Chairwoman of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than **May 28, 2009, at 4:00 p.m. All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than May 28, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.**

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within three (3) working days from time of sale.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Dated this 29th day of April, 2009.

/S/JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director, NMHC

NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
Tel. (670) 234-6866, 234-9447, 234-7689, 234-7670 • Fax. (670) 234-9021
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp

NOTICE OF SALE

UNDER POWER OF SALE
IN DEED OF TRUST

ELISA P. AQUININGOC/JESSE P. AQUININGOC (collectively "Trustor"), on or about December 4, 1998, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on December 10, 1998 under Document No. 98-4068 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

Lot No. 008 T 114, containing an area of 923 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat No. 008 T 01 dated January 7, 1988, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 88-161, dated January 19, 1988, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on March 13, 2009. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on May 29, 2009, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than **$101,820.00**. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Merced M. Tomokane, Chairwoman of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than **May 28, 2009, at 4:00 p.m. All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than May 28, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.**

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Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Dated this 29th day of April, 2009.

/S/JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director, NMHC

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NOTICE OF SALE

UNDER POWER OF SALE
IN DEED OF TRUST

DONNA Q. KAPILEO and DONOVAN K. TECHUR (collectively "Trustor"), on or about November 16, 1999, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on November 23, 1999 under Document No. 99-2778 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

Lot No. 011 G 1091, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 011 G 20, the original of which was recorded 09 Dec 93 as Document No. 93-4288 at Commonwealth Recorder's, Saipan.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on March 13, 2009. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on May 29, 2009, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than **$108,650.00**. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Merced M. Tomokane, Chairwoman of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than **May 28, 2009, at 4:00 p.m. All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than May 28, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.**

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Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Dated this 29th day of April, 2009.

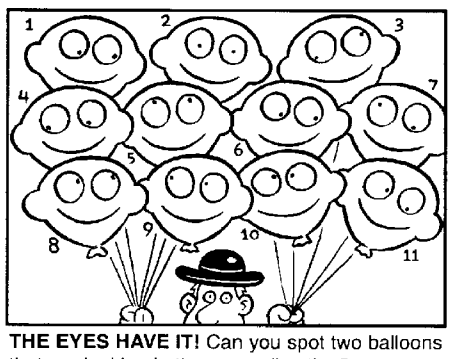
/S/JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director, NMHC

NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

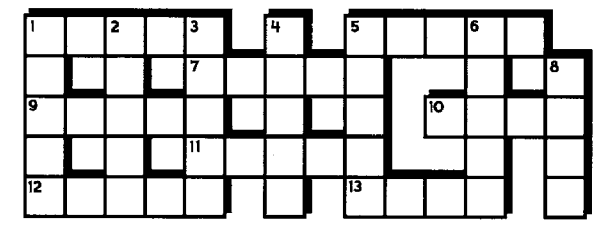
Illustrated by David Coulson



THE EYES HAVE IT! Can you spot two balloons that are looking in the same direction?

Answers: Balloons 1 and 6.

A DICTIONARY SHAKEOUT!



Pictured above is a crossword puzzle grid. Below are 15 miscellaneous words we shook out of the dictionary for you to complete the puzzle by using the good old trial-and-error method.

4-Letter Words:	5-Letter Words:	
ATOM	BABEL	LATHE
EGOS	BARGE	NAMES
EMIT	BERET	PAINT
	BEBOP	PLANE
	CABIN	PIECE
	IDEAL	VERBS

Answers: (Across) 1. Bebop. 5. Paint. 7. Ideal. 9. Barge. 10. Emit. 11. Cabin. 12. Lathe. 13. Egos. (Down) 1. Babel. 2. Beret. 3. Piece. 4. Verbs. 5. Plane. 6. Names. 8. Atom.

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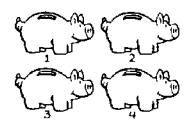
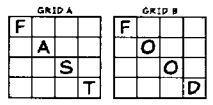
THESE PIGS HAVE A LOT OF (S)CENTS! The cents in bank 1 equal one-third of banks 2 and 4. The cents in bank 4 is one-fifth of bank 2. The total cents in banks 3 and 4 is three-fifths of bank 1. Each bank has one coin. What are they?



Answer: 1 = dime, 2 = quarter, 3 = penny, 4 = nickel.

IT'S FAST FOOD TIME! Below are two puzzle grids for you to fill in. Hints are given for each word. The words in Grid B contain the same letters as the corresponding words in Grid A.



1. Bus charge.
2. A fast food.
3. Stockings, socks.
4. Result of fender-bender.

1. In dread of.
2. Layer of paint.
3. What a blacksmith does.
4. To take care of.

Answers: 1. Fare-fear. 2. Taco-coat. 3. Hose-shoe. 4. Dent-tend.

Picking a great dog trainer

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: I have two small children, and we recently added a new member to our family—a Cocker Spaniel puppy. "Missy" is adorable, and my kids absolutely love her; however, she is more than I bargained for. I am having a very hard time training her and was thinking about going to a dog trainer who can work on everything from house training to basic commands and even aggression. I have been hearing about a dog trainer based nearby. How do I know if he'll be a good trainer for my dog?—Jessica P., via e-mail

DEAR JESSICA: Word-of-mouth recommendations about a dog trainer can be very telling, and if the person telling you about him thinks he is good and can help you, there's a good chance he can.

Of course, there are other questions you should ask directly of the trainer when you contact him. Does he belong to a professional organization such as the Association of Pet Dog Trainers (found at www.apdt.com)? Does he specialize in certain breeds? How much experience does he have training Cocker Spaniels? What is the training format—one on one with the trainer, or a group setting with pet owners? Can other family members participate in the class? Are there any health restrictions or specific vaccinations required of Missy before she can join?

Don't worry about asking too many questions! Good trainers care about your dog and will do their best to answer them.

Working with a professional trainer will be incredibly beneficial for both Missy and you. It's not only Missy who's learning how to respond to commands, you also will learn how to respond to Missy's behavior, how to stop bad habits and how to continue training her long after the sessions end. That's right—professional training is not just for your dog, it's also training for you. That's why it's one of the best investments you can make for both Missy and your family.

■ ■ ■

Send your tips, questions and comments to Paw's Corner, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475, or e-mail them to pawscorner@hotmail.com.

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Strange BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

■ It was Ludwig Wilhelm Erhard, chancellor of West Germany in the 1960s, who made the following sage observation: "A compromise is the art of dividing a cake in such a way that everyone believes he has the biggest piece."

■ You think you're a chocolate lover? In Spain in the 16th century, people loved chocolate so much that it was not uncommon for royal families to give cocoa as part of their daughters' dowry.

■ Chiffon is a perennially fashionable lightweight sheer fabric used in many beautiful gowns—you yourself might have worn a chiffon dress to your prom. But you probably didn't realize that the word "chiffon" is actually French for "rag."

■ If you've ever lived with another person, whether a sibling, a spouse or a roommate, it's almost certain that no matter how good the relationship, there was friction over sharing the bathroom. A few years ago those who study such things decided to conduct a survey to determine what the most annoying bathroom-related habits are. The results: The habit that annoys people more than any other is failing to replace the roll of toilet paper when it runs out. Leaving blobs of toothpaste in the sink was a close second.

■ There was once a law in Hawaii that required anyone not owning a boat to pay a fine.

■ Dooley Wilson, the actor who played Sam the piano player in the Academy Award-winning 1942 film "Casablanca," was actually a drummer—he couldn't play the piano at all.

■ Talk about being desperate for immortality: Greek philosopher Empedocles wanted people to believe that his body had disappeared and he had been turned into a god, so he threw himself into Mt. Etna, an active volcano.

■ ■ ■

Thought for the Day: "Illegal aliens have always been a problem in the United States. Ask any Indian."—Robert Orben

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MAGIC MAZE ● THINGS WE CUT WITH

Z	V	S	Q	R	N	K	H	E	R	B	Y	R	W	T
B	R	O	L	J	E	G	E	B	E	Y	E	W	R	U
R	R	P	N	K	I	T	G	D	T	T	B	E	E	Z
X	V	O	S	Q	C	O	T	S	T	M	L	H	T	S
K	I	R	A	E	H	S	R	U	U	K	G	T	T	R
E	C	X	G	D	I	O	C	A	C	Y	W	Y	U	E
R	E	U	U	S	S	R	Q	I	T	R	P	C	C	P
N	O	F	L	S	E	W	S	J	L	W	A	S	E	P
G	H	Z	I	P	L	F	O	E	O	C	A	G	R	I
Y	X	C	A	N	V	U	S	R	B	Q	P	N	I	L
M	S	P	K	R	K	J	H	F	D	E	C	B	W	C

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Axe	Cigar cutter	Paper cutter	Shear
Bolt cutter	Clippers	Saw	Sickle
Broadsword	Gouge	Scissors	Wire cutter
Chisel	Knife	Scythe	

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GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

DIFFICULTY: ★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

	+		÷		15
÷		−		+	
	+		x		10
x		x		x	
	x		+		24
21		20		27	

1 1 2 3 4 5 7 8 9

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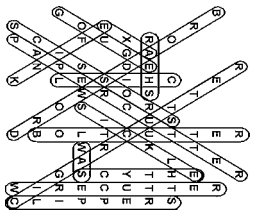
MAGIC MAZE ANSWER



GO FIGURE ANSWER

15	1	÷	8	+	7
	+		−		÷
10	2	x	4	+	1
	x		x		x
24	9	+	5	x	3
	27		20		21

Turn deodorant holders into twist-up cards

It's like magic. Twist this gizmo a few times, and your own creative greeting appears from an unlikely source—the inside of a recycled deodorant container! You can create any kind of all-occasion card to surprise your friends—or even one for Mom on Mother's Day!

It's a unique "go green" activity to enjoy with your kids this spring.

Here's the stuff you need for one greeting:

■ 1 empty oval, twist-style plastic solid deodorant container with lid

■ Colorful self-sticking paper

■ Heavy construction paper or poster board

■ Glue

■ Craft supplies such as feathers, paint, glitter and googly eyes

Here's the fun:

When your deodorant container is empty, find out how it works. Let your child twist it around and around as she watches the elevating plastic base appear at the top of the container. Keep twisting, and eventually it will come off of the plastic screw that is inside. Wash the base piece and let dry. Set aside.

Cover the outside of the container with self-sticking paper. Now decide what design or character you would like to create with the container. Keep in mind that this greeting is like a pop-up card. The outside decoration will be a clue to what eventually will appear from the inside. For example, make an underwater scene on the outside. Make cutouts of fish and seaweed, and then glue them onto the self-sticking paper. Or, simply attach themed stickers. Attach tissue paper wings for a butterfly or craft feathers for a bird.

To make the pop-up feature, cut out a sheet of paper approximately 2 1/2 inches by 6 inches. Twist it around and glue the short ends together to form an oval-shaped cylinder. Decorate the cylinder with a sea creature in a jumping motion for the underwater scene. Or, simply write a message on it with a play on words, such as "You Give Me Porpoise in Life." If it's a greeting to Mom for Mother's Day, you might write, "World's Best Mom!" For a birthday, "Happy bird-Day!"

Glue the bottom of the paper cylinder to the outside rim of the elevating base. Let dry. Carefully replace the base onto the inside screw and twist it into the container. Replace the cap. It's ready to surprise and bring a smile to someone special.

■ ■ ■

Donna Erickson's award-winning television series "Donna's Day" airs on public television nationwide. Visit www.donnasday.com to find out when it airs on your local PBS station and to sign up for Donna's e-newsletter.

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Life & Style

Ga. man convicted in NYC of stalking Tyra Banks

NEW YORK (AP)—A Georgia man who told police he and Tyra Banks "had a thing together" was convicted Thursday of stalking the supermodel-turned-TV host.

Brady Green, 39, of Dublin, Ga., was convicted by Manhattan Criminal Court Judge James Burke, who heard the case without a jury, of stalking, harassment, criminal trespass and attempted aggravated harassment.

Burke handed down his verdict the day after Banks testified that she feared for her safety. The judge said he found that Green had been "hounding" Banks.

However, Burke said he would not send Green to jail. He told defense lawyer Jeffrey Berman to help his client get psychiatric counseling and a job in "a location where he can thrive."

That "likely will not be the city of New York," the judge said.

Berman said he was disappointed with the verdict and planned an appeal but was glad the judge did not send Green to jail. Green had faced up to 90 days in jail at sentencing on June 18.

Banks testified Wednesday that she feared for her safety, and for that of her staff and family.

Authorities said Green, 39, repeatedly called Banks' studio, showed up there, and sent her flowers and letters. They said he also threatened to slit the throat of a staffer who refused to tell him where to find Banks' TV studio.

Green was arrested March 18, 2008, at a McDonald's restaurant near Banks' studio in the Chelsea neighborhood of Manhattan. He told officers he and Banks "had a thing together," police said.

Banks said she was about to leave the studio that day when her staff warned her about Green. She said they had previously shown her Green's photograph, told her he had threatened one of her employees and was "somebody I should watch out for."

Elizabeth Edwards: John's affair made me throw up

NEW YORK (AP)—Elizabeth Edwards writes in a new memoir to be published in May that news of her husband's affair made her vomit in a bathroom.

"I cried and screamed, I went to the bathroom and threw up," Edwards, 59, writes in her book, "Resilience."

Edwards, who is terminally ill with cancer, said her husband, John, admitted to the betrayal just days after declaring his run for president in 2006. She said she wanted him to drop out of the race to protect the family from media scrutiny, but stood by his side anyway.

"He should not have run," she wrote. An advance copy of the book was obtained by the New York Daily News, which reported on it Thursday.

John Edwards went public with the affair in August after the National Enquirer reported he was the father of videographer Rielle Hunter's daughter. He has denied paternity, but his wife of more than 30 years doesn't address the issue in her book. Edwards writes that Hunter's pickup line was "you are so hot" and that when her husband first confessed, he lied and said he only had sex with Hunter once.

The original confession "left most of the truth out," she writes.

Elizabeth Edwards never identifies Hunter by name. But she says that while her life may be tragic, Hunter's is "pathetic."

John Edwards, a former North Carolina senator, was laying the groundwork for a presidential campaign when he hired Hunter to shoot videos of him. Edwards said the affair with Hunter began and ended that year, although Hunter was seen on the campaign trail until the final days of 2006.

David Drake, the publicity director at Broadway Books, said her book would serve as a sort of sequel to her previous memoir, "Saving Graces," that was first published in 2006 and updated in 2007.

Edwards' initial memoir mostly focused on how she coped with the 1996 death of the couple's son Wade in a car accident at age 16 and her ongoing battle with breast cancer.

Since the affair was announced, Edwards has continued to advocate for health care reform by visiting Congress and making policy speeches

The Edwardses have three children—Cate, Jack and Emma Claire.

Sean Penn files for legal separation from his wife

NEW YORK (AP)—Sean Penn and Robin Wright apparently tried to make it work but now, it seems their marriage might be over for good. Penn and his actress wife are separating after 13 years of marriage, citing irreconcilable differences.

The double Oscar winner filed the petition on April 23 in Marin County Superior Court in San Rafael, Calif., according to court papers. The couple married in April 1996. Penn has requested joint legal and physical custody of their 18-year-old daughter, Dylan Francis, and 15-year-old son, Hopper Jack.

This isn't the first indication of marital strife. The Penns filed for divorce in December 2007 but dismissed their petition several months later.

They attended the Academy Awards together in February. Penn, 48, won an Oscar for his role in the drama "Milk," and neglected to thank his wife in his acceptance speech.

Calls to the couple's representative, Mara Buxbaum, and Penn's lawyer, Mindy Lauren Ross, were not immediately returned.

A hearing has been scheduled for Aug. 21, according to the Marin County Superior Court Web site.

Penn met Wright on the set of the 1990 Irish mob movie "State of Grace." The famously brooding actor, who previously married and divorced first wife Madonna, seemed to find the yin to his yang in the luminous actress, whose serene demeanor tempered his macho swagger. Wright, who was married once before to former soap star Dane Witherspoon, has said Penn helped her gain confidence and stand up for herself.

AP

In this Feb. 22, 2009 file photo, Robin Wright Penn, left, and Sean Penn arrive for the 81st Academy Awards in the Hollywood section of Los Angeles.

Tony Bennett donates instruments during Jazz Fest

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Jazz crooner Tony Bennett handed out dozens of new instruments Thursday to students at a charter school founded in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, hoping the tubas, trumpets and trombones would be used to carry on New Orleans' vibrant musical tradition.

Meanwhile, the second half of the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival got under way.

As Bennett shook hands with students and posed for photographs, some of the $100,000 worth of instruments were laid out on a table at KIPP Believe College Prep, a public charter school established after Hurricane Katrina flooded 80 percent of the city in 2005. The school is one of five KIPP charter schools serving roughly 1,000 of the city's students since Katrina.

"This means instruments will be available to these students for years to come, to continue making music history in New Orleans," said Bennett, who was treated Thursday to performances of "Free Spirit Overture" and "My Funny Valentine" by the school's symphonic and jazz bands.

"These kids are amazing. What I heard today was real music. They played with feeling, with such heart," the 82-year-old Bennett said.

The donation effort was set in motion by a jazz fan from New York who won a "Big Give" contest hosted by Oprah Winfrey's magazine. The winner, Barry Jaffin, wanted to use his $5,000 in winnings to put instruments in New Orleans schools.

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X-Men Origins:Wolverine
Friday 4:05 7:10 9:35
Saturday 1:05 4:05 7:10 9:35
Sunday 1:05 4:05 7:10
Mon thru Thurs 4:05 7:10
Hugh Jackman, Liev Schreiber
Action, Adventure • Rated PG 13
Synopsis
X-Men Origins: Wolverine, the first chapter in the X-Men saga, unites Wolverine with several other legends of the X-Men Universe, in an epic revolution that pits the mutants against powerful forces determined to eliminate them.
X-Men Origins:Wolverine
Friday 4:30 7:25 9:55
Saturday 1:25 4:30 7:25 9:55
Sunday 1:25 4:30 7:25
Mon thru Thurs 4:30 7:25
Hugh Jackman, Liev Schreiber
Action, Adventure • Rated PG 13
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Ghost of Girlfriends Past
Friday 4:10 7:15 9:40
Saturday 1:15 4:10 7:15 9:40
Sunday 1:15 4:10 7:15
Mon thru Thurs 4:10 7:15
Matthew McConaughhey, Jennifer Garner
Romantic, Comedy • Rated PG 13
Synopsis
Celebrity photographer Connor Mead loves freedom, fun and women-in that order. A committed bachelor with a no-strings policy, he thinks nothing of breaking up with multiple women on a conference call while prepping his next date. Connor's brother Paul is more the romantic type. In fact, he's about to be married.
Fighting
Friday 4:15 7:30 10:00
Saturday 1:10 4:15 7:30 10:00
Sunday 1:10 4:15 7:30
Mon thru Thurs 4:15 7:30
Channing Tatum, Terrence Howard
Urban, Crime • Rated PG 13
State of Play
Friday 4:00 7:00 9:45
Saturday 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:45
Sunday 1:00 4:00 7:00
Mon thru Thurs 4:00 7:00
Russel Crowe, Ben Affleck
Drama, Political • Rated PG 13
17 Again
Friday 4:20 7:05 9:30
Saturday 1:20 4:20 7:05 9:30
Sunday 1:20 4:20 7:05
Mon thru Thurs 4:20 7:05
Zac Efron, Leslie Mann
Fantasy, Comedy • Rated PG 13
Fast & Furious
Friday 4:25 7:20 9:50
Saturday 1:30 4:25 7:20 9:50
Sunday 1:30 4:25 7:20
Mon thru Thurs 4:25 7:20
Vin Diesel, Paul Walker
Action, Thriller • Rated PG 13
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'Idol's' Giraud passes on Timberlake comparisons

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"American Idol" finalist Matt Giraud said he appreciates being compared to Justin Timberlake but intends to follow his own musical path.

"A white guy with soul, that's just how it works. ... But I think I'm a lot different," Giraud said Thursday, one day after being voted off the Fox TV singing contest. He admires Timberlake's approach but "it's not where I want to go," he told a teleconference.

Giraud, who proclaimed jazz to be a passion, said he wasn't disappointed that it was his jazz-flavored performance of "My Funny Valentine" Wednesday that led to his downfall.

A bigger song would have allowed him to show off more, he said, "but I wanted to pick something simple, and I'm glad I went out on that note."

He'd like to do an album that's "soulful rock with a twist of blues."

The 23-year-old piano player from Kalamazoo, Mich., was equally certain of how he would have dodged what he called the "cruel twist" that faced fellow contestant Adam Lambert.

AP

In this image released by Fox, Matt Giraud performs after being eliminated on "American Idol," Wednesday, April 29, 2009, in Los Angeles.

On Thursday's elimination show, Lambert was left standing in center stage after the other four finalists were divided in pairs. Host Ryan Seacrest told Lambert to decide whether he belonged with Giraud and Kris Allen or Danny Gokey and Allison Iraheta.

Lambert, who has been lavished with praise and survived weekly audience votes, picked the latter two—but turned out to be a surprise bottom-dweller.

"I would have pulled an Archuleta and just sat down," Giraud said, referring to last season runner-up David Archuleta's response to a similar challenge.

On April 15, Giraud became the first "American Idol" contestant to get a judges' reprieve when the audience vote went against him. "'Idol' history has been made!" Seacrest exclaimed following the season's new, one-time-only salvation.

"I can't wait to see my name on a trivia card," Giraud joked Thursday, then turned serious.

"Being saved, I never felt so much love in the room (the theater) before," he said. "I really didn't know that people felt that passionately about me."

Court grants Redmond O'Neal rehab chance

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The son of Ryan O'Neal and Farrah Fawcett is getting a chance at a clean slate.

Redmond O'Neal was admitted into a drug court program on Thursday that could remove him from probation and wipe his record clear of previous drug convictions if he succeeds.

The 24-year-old will join an intense rehabilitation program that will include frequent drug tests and court appearances.

If he relapses or otherwise flunks the program, O'Neal faces several years in prison for a pair of drug convictions.

O'Neal became eligible for the drug court after he failed to pass a less stringent court-supervised rehab program.

O'Neal was stoic as Assistant District Attorney Anthony Estradas laid out the rules of the program, including that he would have to have his own job. The payoff, Estradas told O'Neal, would be a drug-free life and possibly a better relationship with his family.

"Jail will no longer be in your future," Estradas told O'Neal, who was wearing a brown jail jumpsuit.

He has been in custody since April 5, when deputies say they found him with heroin in a parking lot at Los Angeles area jail. He has pleaded not guilty to charges filed in that case.

O'Neal expressed regret recently, telling a judge his recent arrest was keeping him from being with his ailing mother. Fawcett is suffering from anal cancer that has spread to her liver and has suffered complications from an unrelated procedure performed in Germany.

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

Funny stuff! Amy Sedaris writing new book

NEW YORK (AP)—Amy Sedaris is preparing more literary laughter.

The actress and comedian is working on a follow-up to her best seller, "I Like You: Hospitality Under the Influence." The new book, currently untitled, will come out in 2010 and will again feature "her unique approach to home life through the use of fun, long-forgotten crafts," according to Grand Central Publishing, which announced the book Thursday. Sedaris, 48, is the sister of humorist David Sedaris and plays Jerri Blank on Comedy Central's "Strangers With Candy."

McCain to host AMC's weekend of war heroes films

NEW YORK (AP)—John McCain will be the host of AMC cable network's Memorial Day weekend marathon of movies celebrating war heroes. The former prisoner of war and Republican presidential candidate will introduce movies like "Midway," "Patton," "The Longest Day," "Hamburger Hill," "Tora! Tora! Tora!" and "Battle of the Bulge." McCain says the most interesting thing he's found about heroes is that "they're the last people to believe that they're really heroes." The Arizona senator was held captive in Hanoi for more than five years after his plane was shot down during the Vietnam War.

Miss California to campaign against gay marriage

NEW YORK (AP)—The reigning Miss California has gone to Washington to help launch a campaign opposing same-sex marriage. Carrie Prejean told NBC's "Today" show Thursday that she'll be working with the National Organization for Marriage to "protect traditional marriages." The 21-year-old says that marriage is "something that is very dear to my heart" and she's in Washington to help save it. She says many people have thanked her for standing up for traditional marriage. Prejean was named the first runner-up to Miss North Carolina in the Miss USA pageant April 19. Her response to celebrity blogger Perez Hilton's question about legalizing same-sex marriage may have cost her the title.

Six-figure deal reached for book about viruses

NEW YORK (AP)—The swine flu outbreak has boosted sales for an acclaimed history of the 1918 pandemic, and helped biologist Nathan Wolfe get a six-figure deal for a book about viruses. As of Thursday afternoon, John M. Barry's "The Great Influenza," which came out five years ago, had climbed to No. 99 on Amazon.com's best-seller list. Barry's book tells of the 1918 pandemic that killed millions worldwide. A Barry work about the Mississippi flood of 1927, "Rising Tide," became popular after Hurricane Katrina hit in 2005. Also Thursday, publisher Henry Holt said that it had acquired Wolfe's "The Viral Storm," a book about "how viruses and humans have evolved side-by-side over the millennia" and "how viruses have often had the upper hand in the relationship." A publishing official with knowledge of the negotiations said the deal was worth $300,000. The official did not want to be identified because the official was not authorized to discuss the terms of the deal. A spokeswoman from Holt declined comment.

'Deal' game show taping to move to Conn.

WATERFORD, Conn. (AP)—Connecticut officials say a deal has been sealed to bring taping of the "Deal or No Deal" syndicated daily game show to their state starting this summer. Gov. M. Jodi Rell and Endemol USA say the production company and NBC Universal Domestic TV Distribution have signed a lease for space at the Studios of Sonalysts Inc. in Waterford. Thursday's announcement comes about six weeks after NBC Universal announced plans to relocate several shows, including the bawdy Jerry Springer talk show, to Stamford. NBC officials say Connecticut's tax credit for digital media and film production was a key factor in its decisions. The prime-time version of "Deal of No Deal" was launched in 2005 and the syndicated version began this year. Both are currently taped in Culver City, Calif. Howie Mandel will continue as the show's host.

Baffled husband tip-toes around new wife's moods

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: "Charlotte" and I dated happily for six years before we married. Now, after only a few months, she finds almost everything about me wrong. For example, I offered to trim her toenails, not because I thought they looked bad but because I thought she might appreciate it. She became upset with me and accused me of criticizing her appearance.

This kind of thing happens every week. I feel uneasy about saying anything to her. All I'm trying to do is show her how much I love her and that I'm there for her. Charlotte is beautiful. She's 51 but looks 40. I'm 61 and look 61. Have you any advice for me? We have both been married twice before.

TRYING TO BE THE PERFECT HUSBAND
IN TENNESSEE

DEAR TRYING: What a sad situation. Not knowing Charlotte, I can't comment on her quirks. Has she always been sensitive about her appearance or is this something new? Has your behavior changed since the wedding? In other words, could you be trying so hard to please her that it is off-putting?

Please consider this, and if her fault-finding continues, see if she will agree to marriage counseling. Whatever is happening between you, without some mediation, neither of you will be happier in this marriage than you were in the two that preceded it.

DEAR ABBY: I am 17, and my younger brother is 16. He is already a father, and when he goes out with his friends, he ends up getting in trouble. I have tried to explain to him that he needs to stay away from those "friends" and think about his baby. He was arrested four days after the baby was born, and he just got out of jail.

I have already told him I don't want to visit him in jail again, and I don't want my nephew to grow up without a dad. What can I say so that he can stay out of trouble?

BIG SISTER IN DODGE CITY, KAN.

DEAR BIG SISTER: Although you are only a year older, you appear to be a lot more emotionally mature than your brother. Somehow it seems he has not yet grasped the fact that irresponsible actions bring about consequences. While I appreciate your desire to protect him from himself, it is just not possible. I'm sorry to say that some people have to learn their lessons the hard way, and your brother appears to be one of them.

DEAR ABBY: My only child will graduate in June, and we are faced with a problem. My mentally ill sister—who has a history of making scenes—wants to attend the graduation ceremony. She has spoiled many family celebrations. It makes no difference to her where or when she "goes off."

Although I believe in forgiveness, I don't want to take the chance that she will ruin the day my son graduates. There is a growing rift in the family over this, and I welcome your advice.

MOTHER OF THE GRADUATE

DEAR MOTHER: I assume that your sister cannot control her emotions and behavior. Tickets to most graduation ceremonies are strictly limited, and if you have reason to believe that her presence will be disruptive, you should not invite her. If you are planning a celebration for extended family and friends afterward, she can be included as long as someone is assigned to watch over her and will escort her out if she creates a scene.

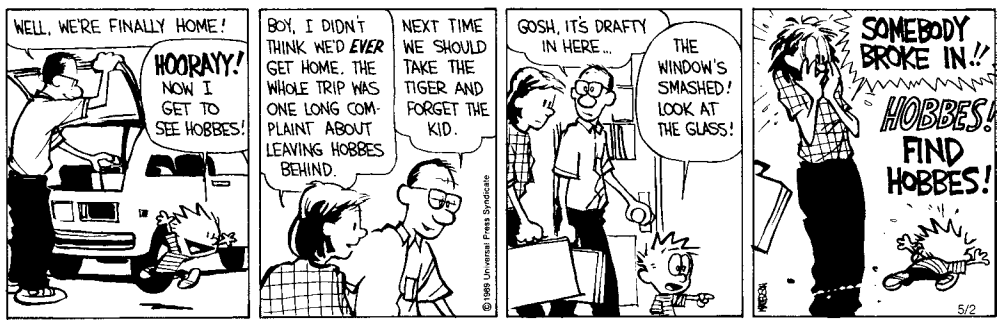
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Good advice for everyone—teens to seniors—is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby—Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

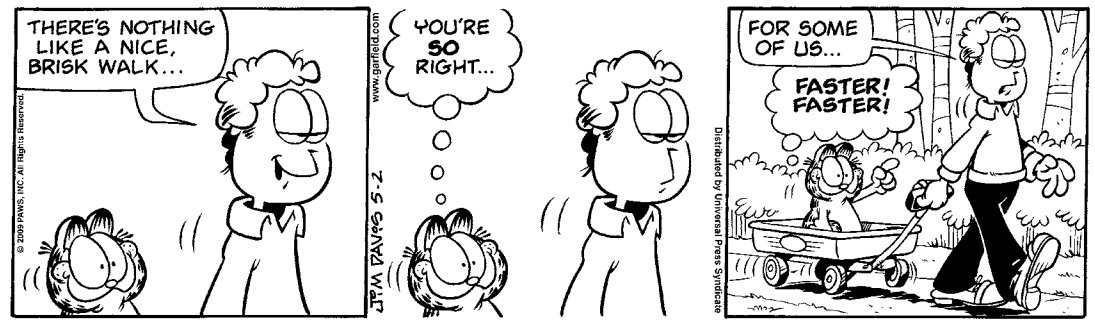
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


WELL, WE'RE FINALLY HOME!
HOORAY! NOW I GET TO SEE HOBBES!
BOY, I DIDN'T THINK WE'D EVER GET HOME. THE WHOLE TRIP WAS ONE LONG COMPLAINT ABOUT LEAVING HOBBES BEHIND.
NEXT TIME WE SHOULD TAKE THE TIGER AND FORGET THE KID.
© 1988 Universal Press Syndicate
GOSH, IT'S DRAFTY IN HERE...
THE WINDOW'S SMASHED! LOOK AT THE GLASS!
SOMEBODY BROKE IN!!
HOBBES! FIND HOBBES!
5/2

Garfield®

By Jim Davis


THERE'S NOTHING LIKE A NICE, BRISK WALK...
YOU'RE SO RIGHT...
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www.garfield.com
JIM DAVIS 5-2
FOR SOME OF US...
FASTER! FASTER!
Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

SERIOUSLY, ADAM. WHY DID YOU BUY THAT COSTUME?
I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO BE A RINGMASTER.
BUT YOU ALWAYS SAY YOU WANT TO BE A "GAJILLIONAIRE."
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THE TWO ARE NOT MUTUALLY EXCLUSIVE.
OH NO? CAN YOU NAME ONE "GAJILLIONAIRE" RINGMASTER?
YES. ADAM NEWMAN IN 2023!
www.gocomics.com
5-2
HARRELL

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

HEY, THEY MAILED US YOUR OBEDIENCE SCHOOL CLASS PHOTO.
OH BOY!
2009 © Glenn McCoy/dist. by Universal Press Syndicate
WOW! WELL, THIS IS DEFINITELY THE BEST PHOTO YOU'VE EVER TAKEN.
LEMME SEE!
OH YEAH. I FORGOT.
GLENN McCOY 5-2-09

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

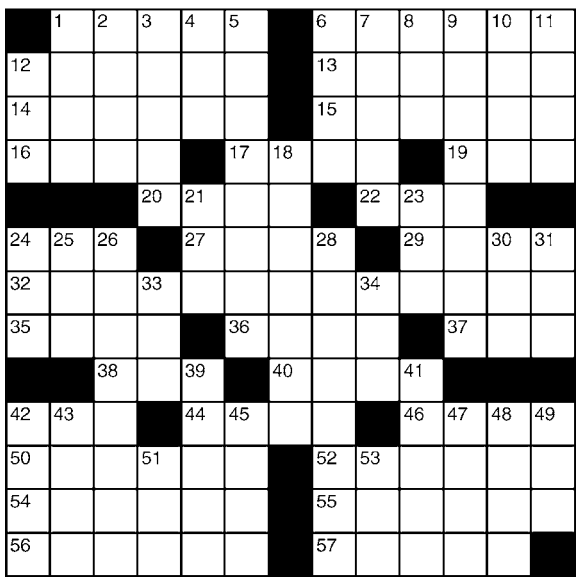
ACROSS
1 Holy scroll
6 Puts on the line
12 Rio Grande city
13 Excite
14 Zigzag in snow
15 Threatening ending
16 Where heros are made
17 Birthright barterer
19 Legislation
20 Wagon
22 Army rank (Abbr.)
24 Massage
27 Needing a massage
29 Do nothing
32 Emulate Freud
35 Calc. or trig.
36 Catcher's aid
37 Female pig
38 Hem and —
40 Salver
42 Gorilla
44 Get up
46 Give a come-hither look
50 He was inspired by an apple
52 Blue hues
54 Characteristics
55 Mates for mortises
56 Surgical device
57 Safe-crackers

DOWN
1 Story
2 Exam format
3 Archaeologist's find
4 Big bother
5 Where the school day starts
6 Old portico
7 Play banjo idly
8 Is for you?
9 Spoilsports
10 "Born Free" lioness
11 Dispatched
12 Leary's hallucinogen
18 Narrow waterways
21 Blond shade
23 The whole enchilada
24 Spinning stat
25 "Good old —"
26 Incidentally
28 Plea
30 Kind of dye
31 A mere handful
33 Dance syllable?
34 — glance
39 Penned
41 Offspring
42 Aardvark's fare
43 Impudent
45 Smithsonian, for ex.
47 Piratic potation
48 Eye part
49 Mountain road section
51 Up to
53 Wye follower

Solution time: 27 mins.

B	A	H	■	S	W	A	P	■	C	H	I	N
A	C	E	■	P	I	T	A	■	R	A	C	E
T	H	R	I	L	L	E	R	■	U	S	E	D
E	Y	E	L	I	D	■	A	B	E	■	■	■
■	■	■	I	N	E	■	D	I	L	L	E	R
B	E	G	A	T	■	F	O	G	■	O	R	E
O	T	I	C	■	B	O	X	■	S	C	A	N
O	U	R	■	W	A	X	■	H	E	I	S	T
K	I	L	L	E	R	■	M	O	O	■	■	■
■	■	■	O	B	I	■	A	M	U	S	E	D
O	P	U	S	■	S	C	H	I	L	L	E	R
O	O	Z	E	■	T	H	E	N	■	U	R	I
H	E	I	R	■	A	I	R	Y	■	G	O	P

Yesterday's answer 5-2



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Lily Allen, 24; David Beckham, 34; Dwayne "the Rock" Johnson, 37; Bianca Jagger, 64

Happy Birthday: Emotional matters will crop up and touch you deeply. Before offering your help, check out the facts. This is not the year to believe what you hear or base your decisions on what someone else is doing. A private affair may distract you from doing what needs to be done. Stay in the loop. Your numbers are 2, 12, 19, 24, 35, 37, 44

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Face issues head-on. You'll be surprised how quickly your situation can change if you are honest, straightforward and offer something a little bit different. You can hook up with someone who interests you personally and professionally at a social event. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): You'll be tempted to overspend. Don't let anyone coerce you. Hidden costs will make it hard to cover all your expenses. Don't buy into a deal that sounds too good to be true. ✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): The more time spent communicating and sharing your ideas, the closer you will come to turning some of your attributes into a lucrative venture. Making some changes at home will help you feel more secure. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): You cannot overlook anything done or said by others. Ask detailed questions if you are confused. Someone may try to convince you to take up a new project. Before you jump in, take a closer look at what will be required. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): You may need to delve into what's going on with your money matters. Cash you thought you had may be missing. Follow your intuition. Focus on keeping things simple and spending time with someone you love. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Your expertise will make people want to take part in whatever you are doing. If you let someone else represent you, less will be accomplished. Don't be fooled by a namedropper trying to impress. Now is not the time to spend because someone else wants you to. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Something will come of a very innocent, chance meeting. Love is going to bring about its surprises and leave you optimistic about the future. A revelation will help you see what's really required to make something or someone you want to pursue open to your suggestions. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Stay ahead of the competition. By keeping people guessing, you will hold the interest of someone intrigued by what you are doing. A spiritual or philosophic presentation will make you realize what you've been doing wrong. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Don't show your surprise when someone changes his or her plans midstream. You may want to back off and spend a little more time at home or with people you can count on. A trip will help you deal with someone messing in your affairs from afar. ✪✪✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Once your realize what's truly important, you will have no problem adjusting to the changes required. Concentrate on home and family and what you can do to secure and stabilize your happiness and your lifestyle. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Don't wait for people to question you. Offer information freely in order to keep everyone in the loop. Once you share your plans, you can move ahead without guilt. Follow your beliefs, even if emotional intervention comes your way. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): You have secrets that must be kept even if you are being pressured by someone to share. A problem at work will play on your emotions. Someone isn't being honest about what's happening. Consider checking out job opportunities. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are hard-headed, progressive and assertive. You show great determination and willpower when faced with a challenge. You are competitive and outgoing.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

					7		5	
		3					7	1
	8		4					
		7		1				9
			5		2			
4				6		3		
					9		1	
5	3					6		
	9		8					

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 5/02

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

3	2	7	4	6	1	8	5	9
4	8	9	5	2	3	6	1	7
6	1	5	7	8	9	3	4	2
2	5	6	3	1	7	4	9	8
7	9	1	6	4	8	5	2	3
8	3	4	9	5	2	7	6	1
1	4	2	8	3	6	9	7	5
5	7	3	2	9	4	1	8	6
9	6	8	1	7	5	2	3	4

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 5/01

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

MAKING A DEAL **Solution: 7 letters**

E	W	R	I	T	E	H	A	N	D	L	E	T	S	(L)
E	T	A	D	Y	C	A	S	H	I	X	E	U	(A)	R
N	S	A	E	P	P	A	W	S	C	A	C	(O)	L	E
W	A	N	P	S	R	I	R	H	M	C	(G)	T	E	T
E	O	O	M	I	G	O	A	T	E	G	R	R	S	R
M	N	R	L	F	C	N	F	S	N	A	I	R	A	A
I	E	L	K	E	G	I	S	I	N	O	O	E	L	B
T	R	A	D	E	G	F	T	S	T	T	C	F	A	U
E	P	B	E	S	U	A	A	R	S	V	S	F	R	S
K	E	R	A	L	I	C	L	E	A	K	E	O	I	I
R	O	E	L	T	T	A	V	L	S	P	C	C	E	N
A	P	V	O	I	W	N	U	I	K	O	R	O	S	E
M	L	G	O	Y	I	E	R	N	I	H	E	I	T	S
B	E	N	E	F	I	C	I	A	L	S	T	N	C	S
N	S	R	E	V	I	L	E	D	L	L	E	S	G	E

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Yesterday's Answer: Tattoos

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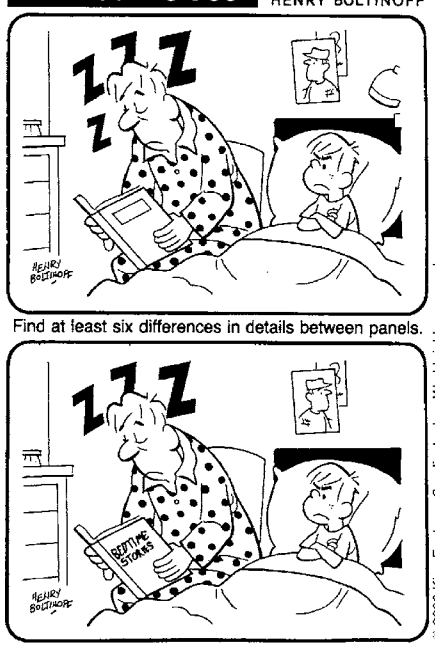
HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

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Differences: 1. Picture is different. 2. One "Z" is missing. 3. Book title has been added. 4. Dresser is wider. 5. Lamp is missing. 6. Chair back is taller.

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5	6	8	4	8	2	8	3	8	7	4	3	7
P	N	T	V	R	S	A	S	N	B	I	O	E
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H	O	F	O	C	T	S	S	R	I	W	T	O
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8	5	2	6	5	6	8	7	4	6	2	6	2
R	S	E	T	O	E	K	E	I	N	S	T	T
4	2	5	4	2	5	2	6	4	5	7	5	6
V	A	L	E	R	V	S	E	S	E	D	D	D

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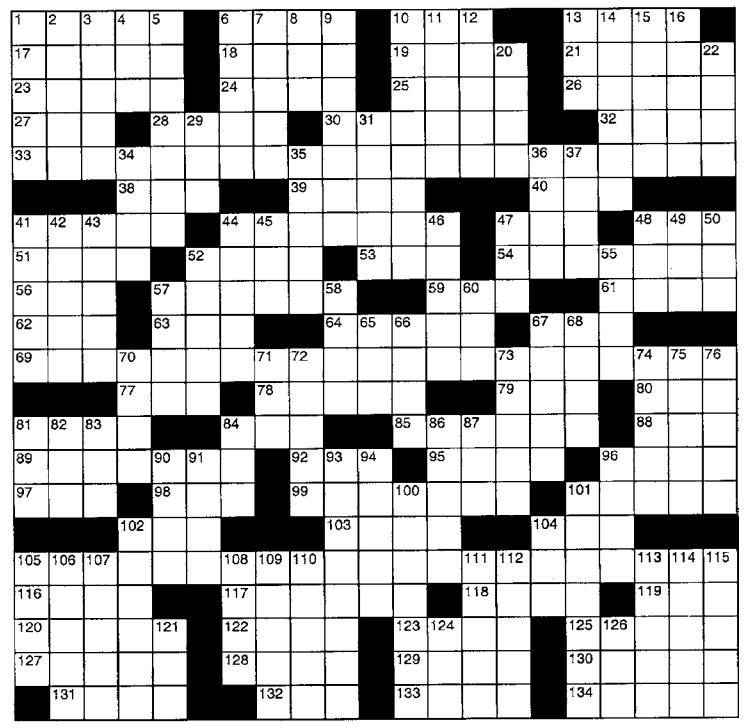
Super Crossword — FILM CLIP

ACROSS
1 Songwriters' org.
6 Old Glory feature
10 — -jongg
13 Ali —
17 Playground fixture
18 Ripped
19 Inland sea
21 It multiplies by dividing
23 Islamic text
24 Columnist Bombeck
25 Mrs. Zeus
26 Astronomer Carl
27 Catchall abbr.
28 Party pots
30 Bandleader Hampton
32 Gusto
33 Start of a remark by George Leonard
38 Cry of discovery
39 Pound of poetry
40 Forster's "Howards —"
41 Film division
44 Swerves dangerously
47 — -de-lance
48 Spear-headed
51 Colorless
52 Ship's slammer
53 Salon supply
54 Part 2 of remark
56 — du Diable
57 Lost one's tail?
59 It can be wicked
61 Writer O'Brien
62 — Tin Tin
63 Over-dramatic thespian
64 Nichols' "— Irish Rose"
67 Mont-gomery's st.
69 Part 3 of remark
77 Humorist George
78 Pine product
79 Affliction
80 Palindromic Parseghian
81 Old tub
84 Rock's Fleet-wood —
85 Part of a diet
88 Ferris-wheel unit
89 Part 4 of remark
92 Time Warner partner
95 Sharpen a skill
96 Location
97 Even so
98 Shack
99 Occur earlier
101 Croc's kin
102 Droop
103 Director Mira
104 Tin —
105 End of remark
116 Chianti, e.g.
117 Keen insight
118 Graceland name
119 — roll
120 Above it all
122 Mr. Ed's mother
123 "Clinton's Ditch"
125 Buffalo Bill, for one
127 Tenor Mario
128 North Carolina campus
129 Baseball's Sammy
130 Disburse
131 Nourish
132 Humorist Buchwald
133 Manuscript imperative
134 Bolger/ Lahr co-star

DOWN
1 Crooked
2 Arboreal animal
3 She brought out the beast in men
4 Periodon-tists' org.
5 Kind of fudge
6 Shorthand, shortly
7 Museum piece
8 It's up your sleeve
9 Get it
10 '75 Diana Ross film
11 Stadium
12 Seraglio
13 Coll. degrees
14 Bowled over
15 Sire
16 Disconcert
20 Composer Schifrin
22 Up-front money
29 Plutarch character
31 "The Woman —" ('84 film)
34 Nary a soul
35 It suits many
36 41 Down, for one
37 Calvary inscription
41 Mr. Agnew
42 Neighbor of Nev.
43 Skater Berezhnaya
44 Brioche bit
45 Pitch in
46 Put in stitches
47 Crafty critter
48 Top
49 Tons of time
50 Heredity letters
52 Responsi-bility
55 Shipshape
57 Israel's Barak
58 Place to pontificate
60 "Just — thought!"
65 Bach's "Bist du — mir"
66 Travelers' stops
67 Dwelling
68 Tun throw-aways
70 Time to crow?
71 Monk's title
72 Sum up
73 Swill con-noisseur
74 Implied
75 Urania's sister
76 Not as common
81 Farm feature
82 "— gelida manina" (Puccini aria)
83 — bran
84 Encountered
86 Actress Maureen
87 Fate
90 Bangkok resident
91 "Les Miserables" author
93 Frill
94 Rent
96 Amritsar attire
100 Gloom
101 Parsley, perhaps
102 Nap
104 Word form for "environ-ment"
105 Ellipse
106 Mideastern melange
107 — fell swoop
108 June, but not July
109 Florida city
110 Colossal commotion
111 Elevate
112 Actor Williams
113 It gets wet as it dries
114 Absurd
115 Sweet treat
121 In thing
124 Disintegrate
126 — -Locka, FL



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Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

1. ANCIENT WORLD: Who was the king of Troy during the Trojan War?
2. MEDICAL TERMS: What happens during sternutation?
3. MOVIES: What movie featured the famous line, "It ain't gonna be no rematch"?
4. LITERATURE: In which of Shakespeare's plays does the character of Titania appear?
5. WEIGHTS AND MEASURES: If a standard quarter weighs .2 ounces, how many quarters would it take to equal 1 pound?
6. SCIENCE: What geological process formed the Grand Canyon?
7. EXPLORERS: Who was the first European explorer to travel the length of the Mississippi River?
8. ENTERTAINERS: In "The Gene Autry Show," who was Autry's well-known comic sidekick?
9. TELEVISION: What was the name of the chimpanzee on "The Beverly Hillbillies"?
10. MUSIC: What kind of instrument is a euphonium?

Answers:
1. Priam
2. involuntary sneeze
3. "Rocky"
4. "A Midsummer Night's Dream"
5. 80
6. Erosion
7. La Salle, in 1682
8. Pat Buttram
9. Cousin Bessie
10. Brass instrument that resembles a small tuba

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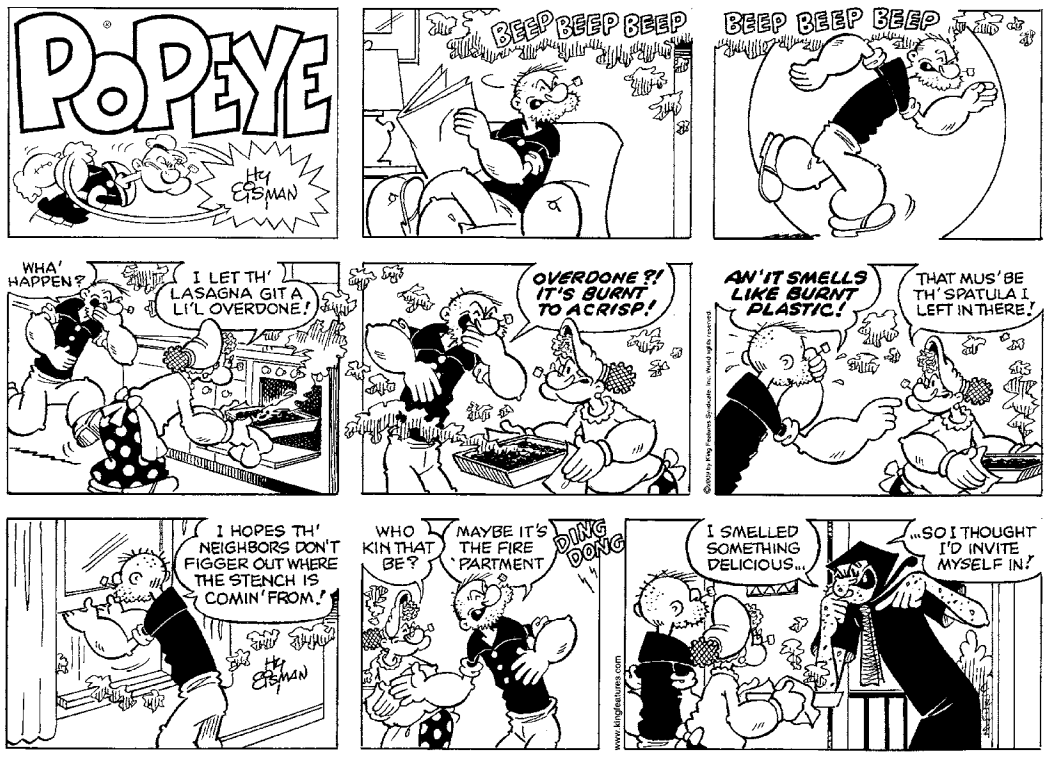
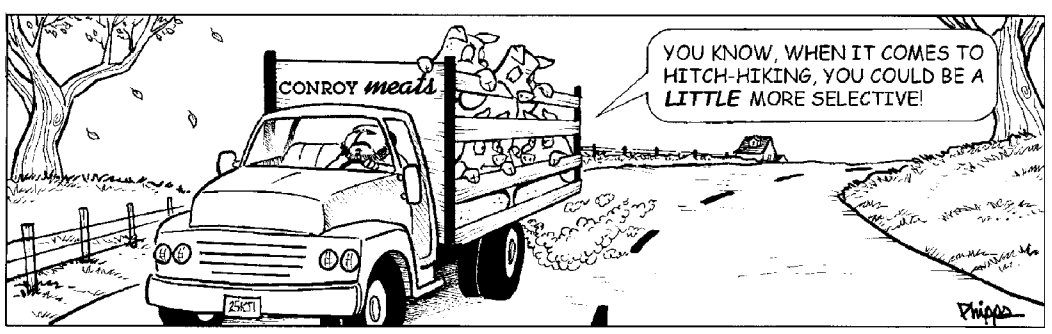
Saturday's Answers

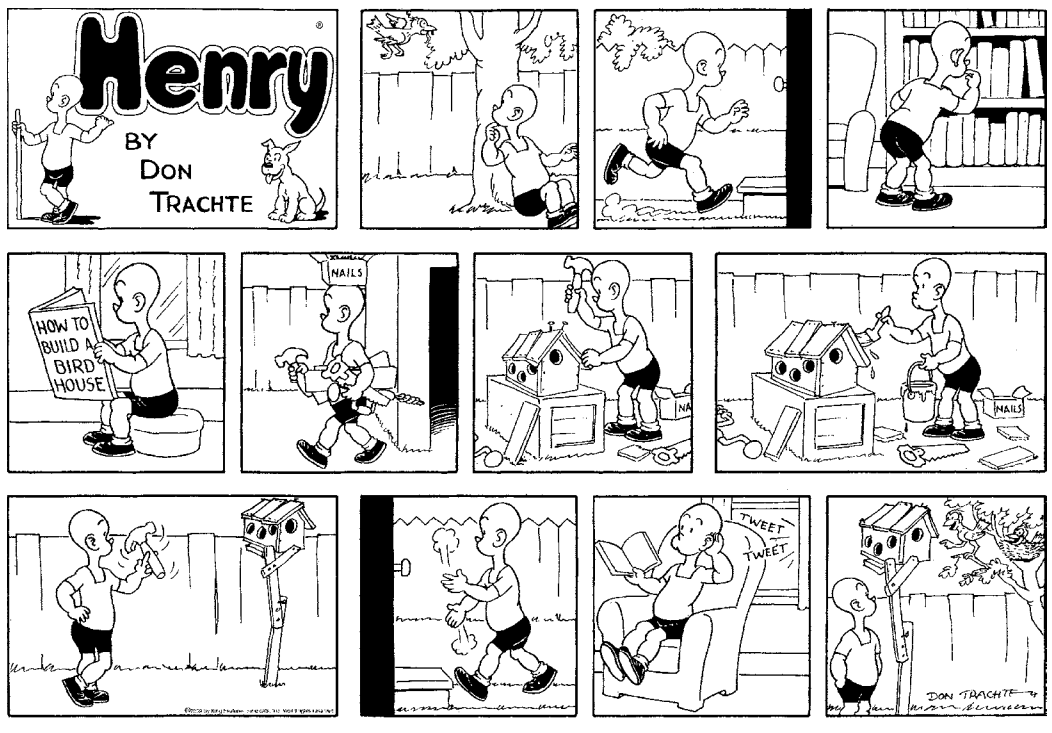

POPEYE
HY EISMAN
BEEP BEEP BEEP
BEEP BEEP BEEP
WHA' HAPPEN?
I LET TH' LASAGNA GIT A LI'L OVERDONE!
OVERDONE?! IT'S BURNT TO A CRISP!
AN' IT SMELLS LIKE BURNT PLASTIC!
THAT MUS' BE TH' SPATULA I LEFT IN THERE!
I HOPES TH' NEIGHBORS DON'T FIGGER OUT WHERE THE STENCH IS COMIN' FROM!
WHO KIN THAT BE?
MAYBE IT'S THE FIRE 'PARTMENT
DING DONG
I SMELLED SOMETHING DELICIOUS...
...SO I THOUGHT I'D INVITE MYSELF IN!
www.kingfeatures.com

Amber Waves — by Dave T. Phipps



The Spats — by Jeff Pickering

MARK TRAIL
ALMOST 500 SPECIES OF TREE FROGS ARE FOUND THROUGHOUT THE WORLD, AND THEY RANGE IN SIZE FROM 1 1/2 INCHES TO 5 1/2 INCHES
THE MOST OBVIOUS FEATURE COMMON TO ALL OF THEM IS THAT THEIR TOES END IN DISCS THAT FORM SUCKERS FOR CLINGING
IN SPITE OF THE COLD MORNING TEMPERATURES, SOME AMPHIBIANS ARE ALREADY LOOKING FOR A MATE
OTHERWISE, HIS PROSPECTIVE MATE MIGHT NEVER FIND HIM AMID THE THICK SHORELINE VEGETATION
THOUGH HE IS ONLY AN INCH OR SO LONG, THE MIDGET TREE FROG SINGS LOUD AND CLEAR...
WHILE MOST ARE QUIET ABOUT THEIR COURTING, THE SPRING PEEPER LETS EVERYONE IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD KNOW ABOUT IT
ANNOUNCING TO THE WORLD THAT IT IS SPRING AND THAT HE IS AVAILABLE FOR A LITTLE ROMANCING
JACK ELROD



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• 5-Liner	$35
• 3-Liner with picture	$45
• 5-Liner with picture	$55

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Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

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Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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Bulls beat Celtics in 3 OTs, force Game 7

CHICAGO (AP)—One more thriller, and now, the Chicago Bulls and Boston Celtics will play a decisive seventh game.

Derrick Rose scored 28 points and blocked Rajon Rondo's potential game-winner, John Salmons scored 35, and the Bulls beat the defending champions 128-127 in triple overtime Thursday night to tie the first-round series at three games apiece.

Ray Allen scored a career playoff-high 51 points for the Celtics, but the series will go back to Boston for Game 7 on Saturday after another classic battle in a series that had already seen its share of drama.

Three of the first five games went to overtime, including one that needed two extra periods. Another came down to the wire in regulation, but this easily trumped them all.

Rondo penetrated and pulled up on the left block with 8 seconds left and turned, only to be rejected by Rose. The rookie of the year then missed two free throws with 3.2 seconds remaining, before Rondo launched a harmless heave from beyond midcourt.

That ended the game. The series, however, continues.

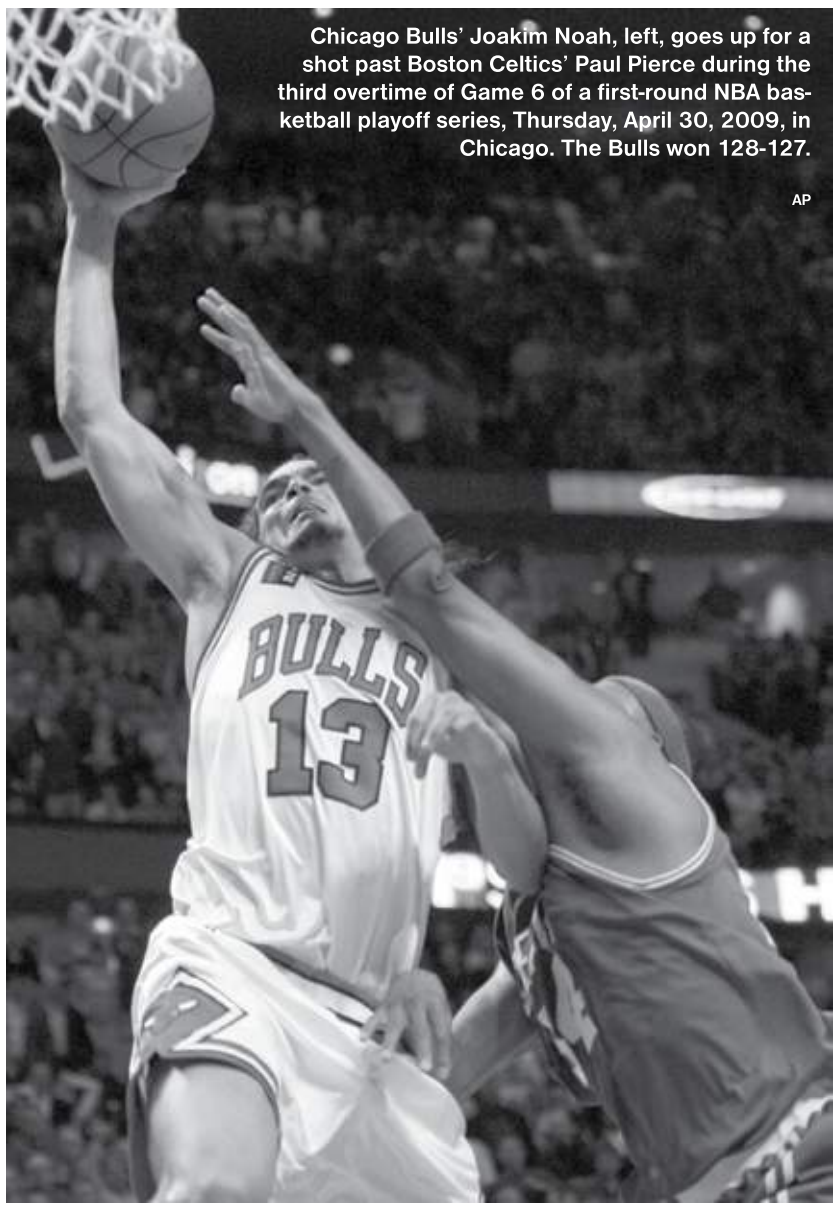
"This series is a lot of fun for the fans, the people of Chicago, the people of Boston," said the Bulls' Joakim Noah, who delivered the go-ahead three-point play after a steal. "It's a lot of fun for us, too, playing in environments like this on the big stage. It's special to be part of this, and I know that it's a series people will be talking about for a long time."

Rose added: "It's crazy, but you got to love it."

Tied at 123 in the third OT, Noah stole the ball and broke upcourt for a dunk, got fouled by Paul Pierce and hit the free throw with 35.5 seconds remaining. Eddie House quickly answered with a corner jumper, his feet on the 3-point arc, to pull the Celtics within 126-125, but Chicago's Brad Miller then hit two free throws to get the lead back up to three with 28 seconds left.

The Celtics weren't finished, though.

A driving Rondo put back his own miss to make it a one-point game, and then he got a break when Kirk Hinrich missed a layup with Rondo's hand in the cylinder - which would have been goaltending. But the Bulls prevailed in the end.



Chicago Bulls' Joakim Noah, left, goes up for a shot past Boston Celtics' Paul Pierce during the third overtime of Game 6 of a first-round NBA basketball playoff series, Thursday, April 30, 2009, in Chicago. The Bulls won 128-127.

AP

Allen was simply spectacular for Boston, finishing three points shy of John Havlicek's club playoff record and tying the NBA playoff mark with nine 3-pointers.

"It's very bittersweet," Allen said. "There's nothing to really talk about anymore. We lost and we had the agony that it wasn't enough."

Glen Davis added 23 points and Pierce scored 22, but it was a difficult night for Rondo.

The Celtics' best player in the first five games, he had 19 assists and nine rebounds but scored just eight points and threw an elbow at Hinrich during a first-quarter skirmish. He also got serenaded by boos and derisive chants for his foul at the end of Game 5 that left a woozy Miller with a bloody mouth before missing two tying free throws.

This time, Salmons and Rose had plenty of help from Miller, who had 23 points and 10 rebounds. And now the Bulls are on the verge of knocking off the defending champions—or going home.

The Celtics were leading 113-111 in the second OT after Davis scored with 3:49 left, but they went cold and the Bulls grabbed the lead.

Salmons responded with a 3-pointer to put Chicago ahead and made it a three-point game with a driving layup with two minutes left.

It stayed that way until Allen, his sneakers touching the arc, buried a jumper from the right corner that pulled Boston within 116-115 with 20 seconds remaining. Miller then hit two free throws, to make it a 3-point game, but Allen wasn't finished.

He dribbled to his left and buried a 3-pointer over Hinrich to tie it at 118 with 7.6 seconds left. After a timeout, Miller got the ball near midcourt but had trouble finding an open teammate as time expired.

Magic 114, 76ers 89

At Philadelphia, playing without suspended star Dwight Howard and injured guard Courtney Lee, Orlando beat Philadelphia in Game 6 to advance to the second round of the Eastern Conference playoffs.

Howard, who was suspended one game by the NBA for his elbow on Sixers center Samuel Dalembert in Game 5, will return when the Magic play the winner of the Boston-Chicago series.

Rashard Lewis scored 29 points and Rafer Alston had 21 to help the Magic win on the road for the second time this series. The Magic's decisive run came early when they made 12 of their first 19 shots.

Alston hit two 3-pointers during the Magic's fast start that put them up 15 and quickly negated the home crowd. J.J. Redick made all three 3-point attempts in the first half and ably filled in for Lee, who had surgery on his fractured sinus Thursday and could possibly be out two more weeks.

Andre Miller scored 24 points for the Sixers, who were eliminated in the first round for the second straight season.

Rockets 92, Trail Blazers 76

At Houston, Ron Artest scored 27 points, Yao Ming had 17 points and 10 rebounds and Houston reached the second round for the first time since 1997 with the Game 6 victory.

Aaron Brooks scored 13 points and Shane Batter tied a career playoff-high with nine rebounds as the Rockets won for the first time in their last seven first-round series. They lost Game 6s the last two seasons, both to Utah.

Houston moves on to play the top-seeded Los Angeles Lakers on Monday night at the Staples Center. The Lakers won all four meetings in the regular season.

LaMarcus Aldridge scored 26 points and Brandon Roy had 22 for the Blazers, who were making their first playoff appearance since 2003. Portland improved 13 games from last season and reached its highest win total since 1999-00.

The Blazers, the youngest team in the playoffs, lost Game 1 in Portland, then dropped all three games in Houston. The last three games of the series had been decided by a total of eight points, but the Rockets turned this one into a rout before halftime.

NBA BRIEFS

Sloan has knee replacement surgery

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—Utah Jazz coach Jerry Sloan has had right knee replacement surgery. The Jazz said on Thursday the surgery went well and the 67-year-old coach was recovering. Utah's 21st season under Sloan ended on Monday with a loss to the Los Angeles Lakers, who won the NBA first-round playoff series 4-1. Sloan signed a one-year extension in January that will keep him with the Jazz through the end of next season.

Knicks to host Maccabi Tel Aviv in exhibition

NEW YORK (AP)—The New York Knicks will host Maccabi Tel Aviv in an exhibition game for the second time in three years. The Euroleague team will play at Madison Square Garden on Oct. 18, the Knicks announced Thursday. The game will tip at 1 p.m., a more convenient starting time for the team's fans in Israel than the usual 7:30 p.m. start. Proceeds from the game will benefit Migdal Ohr, the world's largest orphanage. The Knicks beat Maccabi 112-85 on Oct. 11, 2007, a game that drew the largest crowd for an exhibition game at MSG. Many in the crowd rooted for the visitors, who had a large contingent cheering and waving Israel's flag. Maccabi Tel Aviv also will visit the Los Angeles Clippers on its trip to the United States.

Woods jumps out to the lead at Quail Hollow

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—The Masters is over. The Tiger & Phil show might just be getting started.

Tiger Woods matched the course record with a 30 on the front nine, where he closed with three straight birdies Thursday morning to finish off a 7-under 65 at the Quail Hollow Championship. Phil Mickelson followed in the afternoon by chipping in for eagle and making a remarkable par save from under a video board for a 5-under 67 that put him in a tie for second.

They did not play together, as was the case three weeks ago in an electric final-round pairing at Augusta National. But on a warm and breezy afternoon in Carolina, it seemed as though they were never far apart.

A few fans taunted Woods early in his round, calling out, "Let's go, Phil!" as he walked by.

Mickelson couldn't escape a familiar name even as he lumbered to the finish, as fans called out, "You're only two shots behind Tiger!"

"It's only one round," Mickelson said. "There's a lot of golf left."

Even so, the Quail Hollow Championship served up quite an appetizer on a course that even was reminiscent of Augusta with virtually no rough and slick greens.

The emphasis was not accuracy off the tee as much as wizardry with the short game, and both players were up to the task.

Woods was plodding along the back nine, failing to birdie either of the par 5s, until he ran off six birdies and two splendid par saves on the front nine. After twice putting himself in tough positions, he hit a low pitch out of a swale on the second hole to a foot, then hit another wedge that stopped a few inches next to the cup on the fourth.

"I hit a couple of loose shots here and there, but I really putted well," Woods said. "I had a couple of key saves - made a nice little up-and-down at 2 and just a really good save at 4 that kept the round going. It's always nice when you birdie the last three."

For Mickelson, it was sweet to finish with a par.

From a fairway bunker on the par-4 18th, he wanted to lay up short of the green but pulled his shot while trying to avoid a creek that runs down the left side. The ball went under a large video board, and Mickelson took his free drop on a slope of grass above the cart path.

Then came a wedge that spun just enough to stop 2 feet away.

"It's nice to finish with a par," he said. "I ended up playing a good round."

Steve Marino, who gave himself a chance at winning last week in New Orleans, and Robert Allenby also opened with a 67. The group another shot back included two-time U.S. Open champion Retief Goosen, Hunter Mahan, Jeff Maggert and Lucas Glover.

Masters champion Angel Cabrera opened with a 70, along with defending champion Anthony Kim.

More than half of the 156-man field shot par or better at Quail Hollow, a course given a new look for this tournament. Instead of deep rough, there's a uniform cut of 2 inches that allowed players a chance to attack the greens.

Trouble was, the greens were firm and fast, making it difficult and at times dangerous to get it close to the hole.

"It's playable," Woods said. "The only thing is, it'll bait you into being more aggressive into some of these flags. You've just got to be careful on that."

Mickelson called it the best setup he has ever seen, no surprise coming from a guy who tends who spend a lot of time off the fairway.

"I think the fans are enjoying the recovery shot, which is the most exciting shot in golf," Mickelson said. "We're having a bunch of recovery shots—at least I am—from the trees and so forth. I think that makes for exciting golf."

Mickelson picked up a routine two-putt birdie on the fifth, then a deft chip from just short of the seventh green fell for eagle. But his momentum slowed, and he finished with seven straight pars.

Woods, who finished one shot behind Mickelson at Augusta, became the fifth player to shoot 30 on the front nine at Quail Hollow. He'd not been leading after a round since Saturday at the U.S. Open last summer, and while he got off to a bogey-free start, his record is not all that daunting when leading after the first round - 13-10 on the PGA Tour.

But it got at least one player's attention.

"If you want to win, you've got to be on top when it's done," Glover said. "And it just got a lot harder since he decided to play good on a Thursday."

Marlins score six in 10th to beat Cubs

CHICAGO (AP)—Jorge Cantu hit a three-run double in the 10th inning after Florida tied it on a throwing error by Carlos Marmol in the eighth, and the Marlins beat the Chicago Cubs 8-2 Thursday night.

Alfredo Amezaga doubled and scored on Ryan Theriot's fielding error for the go-ahead run in the 10th and Cantu homered and drove in four runs for the Marlins. Florida tied it in the eighth when Marmol threw away Maybin's sacrifice attempt.

Renyel Pinto (2-0) got one out for the win.

Amezaga led off the 10th with a drive Aaron Heilman (2-1) that popped out of a diving Reed Johnson's glove for a double. Wes Helms walked before Amezaga scored when Theriot couldn't come up with Derrek Lee's throw to second for the force on Emilio Bonifacio's grounder.

Maybin then laid down a perfect bunt to the first base side, scoring Helms.

Brewers 4, Diamondbacks 1

At Milwaukee, the Brewers jumped on the Diamondbacks' bullpen for a four-run seventh after being shut out for six innings by Max Scherzer, then held on for the win.

It was another momentum-building victory for the Brewers, who got their longest outing of the season from starter Jeff Suppan. Coming off a three-game sweep of Pittsburgh, Milwaukee has won eight of its last nine games after a rough start to the season.

Mark DiFelice (2-0) got the win in relief, and new Brewers closer Trevor Hoffman pitched the ninth for his second save.

Scherzer struck out seven in a dominant outing but was denied his first career victory after leaving with a 1-0 lead. Tom Gordon (0-1) wound up taking the loss.

Cardinals 9, Nationals 4

At Washington, Rick Ankiel hit a tiebreaking RBI double in a five-run ninth inning, and the Cardinals won for the eighth time in 10 games.

Albert Pujols hit his eighth homer for St. Louis in the first inning, belting a two-run shot to finish an at-bat that featured two of Daniel Cabrera's four wild pitches.

Chris Perez (1-1) got the last two outs of the eighth inning for the win.

Ryan Zimmerman homered, extending his hitting streak to a Nationals-record 19 games as Washington lost for the seventh time in 10 games.

Julian Tavarez (0-2) wound up allowing two runs on two hits and two walks, retiring just one batter in the ninth inning.

Dodgers 8, Padres 5

At Los Angeles, Manny Ramirez followed Orlando Hudson's two-run homer with a long ball of his own, and the Dodgers scored the go-ahead run in the seventh inning on an error by catcher Nick Hundley.

The Dodgers improved to 7-0 at Chavez Ravine in the opener of an 11-game homestand. It's their best start at home since 1947, when the Brooklyn Dodgers started out 8-0 at Ebbets Field in Jackie Robinson's rookie year.

Ronald Belisario (1-2) recorded his first major league victory with an inning of one-hit relief. Jonathan Broxton, the sixth Dodgers pitcher, got his seventh save in eight attempts,striking out the side after a leadoff walk.

Luke Gregerson (0-1) gave up singles to his first three batters, including Mark Loretta, whose tying RBI single gave him seven hits in 10 at-bats as a pinch-hitter this season.

Rays 13, Red Sox 0

At St. Petersburg, Fla., Tampa Bay's Matt Garza took a perfect game into the seventh inning and Evan Longoria homered and drove four runs to help the AL Championship Series MVP shut down the Boston Red Sox.

Jacoby Ellsbury fouled off an 0-2 pitch and took two balls before hitting a squibber past Garza leading off the seventh. The crowd of 20,341 gave the pitcher a standing ovation, and the right-hander got back on track by getting Dustin Pedroia to ground into a double play.

Garza (2-2) threw 75 of his 108 pitches for strikes, walked one and struck out 10.

Longoria had a three-run double off Josh Beckett (2-2) and hit his sixth homer of the season—a solo shot in the sixth inning—off Hunter Jones. Michel Hernandez also hit first career homer off Beckett, who allowed seven runs and 19 hits in 4 2-3 innings.

Royals 8, Blue Jays 6

At Kansas City, Mo., John Buck tripled twice and drove in five runs, and the Royals tied a club record by turning six double plays in beating the Blue Jays.

The Royals took three of four from the Blue Jays, who hit town on Monday leading the AL East with the best record in the majors. Toronto, for the first time in team history, had started the year by winning six consecutive series of at least three games.

Buck hit a two-run triple off Brian Burres (0-2) in the second inning, a sacrifice fly in the third and another two-run triple off Bryan Bullington in the fifth. He became the second Royals catcher to collect two triples in a game.

Buck, who also doubled in the eighth, tied a career high with five RBIs and Kyle Davies (2-1) allowed three runs and seven hits in 5 2-3 innings.

Yankees 7, Angels 4

At New York, Melky Cabrera spoiled Angels manager Mike Scioscia's strategy, hitting a tiebreaking single in the eighth that led the Yankees to their third straight win.

After an intentional walk to Nick Swisher loaded the bases with one out, Cabrera hit an RBI single on the first pitch from Justin Speier (0-1) for a 5-4 lead. Ramiro Pena followed with a two-run double for his first RBIs in the majors.

Phil Coke (1-1) pitched a perfect eighth for the win. Mariano Rivera worked the ninth for his fifth save in six chances.

The loss left the Angels at 9-12 in April, ending their run of 15 straight months at .500 or better. That was longest active streak in the majors.

Athletics 4, Rangers 2

At Arlington, Texas, Dallas Braden pitched five scoreless innings and Ryan Sweeney made a game-saving catch for Oakland.

The Rangers had two on in the eighth when Ian Kinsler hit a towering flyball to straightaway center. Sweeney retreated, leaped and stuck his glove above the wall to make the play.

Braden (3-2) allowed five hits and walked four, but managed to work his way out of trouble. Michael Wuertz, closing with Brad Ziegler out sick, got his first save.

Matt Holliday hit his first homer with Oakland in the ninth. Landon Powell hit a sac fly off Vicente Padilla (1-2) to break a scoreless tie in the sixth.

Swine flu outbreak prompts sports cancellations

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (AP)—The swine flu outbreak has forced the cancellation or postponement of sporting events across the country, affecting everything from prep contests in Texas and Alabama to a college baseball road trip in Delaware.

The Alabama High School Athletic Association is pushing back its championship events until at least next week amid dozens of school shutdowns in the Huntsville area, where two probable cases of swine flu were reported. The state track and field championships were scheduled for this weekend in Gulf Shores and Troy.

Special Olympics Texas, meanwhile, canceled its spring games a day after all public high school athletic competitions in the state were put off until May 11.

Mexico has been at the center of the flu outbreak and its sports have been badly disrupted. Mexican pro soccer matches this weekend—176 in all—will be played in empty stadiums and a pair of Copa Libertadores matches were moved to Colombia next week. The Copa Libertadores is Latin America's most prestigious club championship.

Back in the United States, the flu's impact hasn't yet hit major league sports.

Texas Rangers spokesman John Blake said team physician David Hunter is keeping in contact with local health organizations. The Rangers also have distributed an information sheet about the flu provided by Major League Baseball to all ballpark personnel.

"It is a concern, because we do travel a lot," New York Yankees manager Joe Girardi said. "We're in places where there are big crowds all the time. I feel very good about the medicine in our country and the way our country handles situations.

"So you try to take as many precautions as you can, but you can't stop living."

Milwaukee Brewers pitcher Yovani Gallardo, who was born in Michoacan, Mexico, and went to high school in Fort Worth, Texas, was concerned about relatives in the area.

"Everybody's pretty worried about it," he said. "But no, I haven't heard anything as far as my family to this point—and hopefully it stays that way."

At the college level, the NCAA said it was monitoring the situation but as of now doesn't plan changes to its various spring championship sites.

The University of Delaware canceled a baseball series at North Carolina-Wilmington after 10 probable cases of the virus were identified among Delaware students, including one team member. The player's name was not released.

Delaware and Hofstra also scratched a three-game softball series at Hofstra this weekend.

A rural school district in central New York is closing for two days after preliminary testing indicated a female student who had traveled to Mexico recently had contracted swine flu.

Fabius-Pompey Superintendent Tim Ryan says all sports and other activities also have been canceled through Friday. The rural district 10 miles south of Syracuse has 860 students.

North Kingstown High School in Rhode Island closed for the week and canceled all home and away games starting Wednesday afternoon. Health officials there identified a student who might have swine flu and recently went to Mexico.

Alabama's decision came as some prep track teams were preparing to head to the state meets. It also affects postseason play in soccer, softball and golf.

The state organization set a tentative schedule to resume events starting next Tuesday, but won't make a firm decision until the day before.

In north Alabama, Huntsville's 52 city schools and 10 more in Madison were closed from Thursday through Monday, affecting some 31,000 students. Two probable cases of swine flu at a local kindergarten were reported.

At the opposite end of the state, Saint Paul's High School track coach Jim Tate's bid for a fourth consecutive Class 5A boys and girls titles was on hold, at least for a few days. Tate worried that state officials might not be able to hold the events during the spring with only a few weeks before summer break.

"Obviously we're disappointed," he said from the Mobile school. "Everybody was primed and ready to go. (State health officials) are the experts that are deciding the degree of danger that we have, and obviously we want to do what's safe for everybody."

AHSAA executive director Steve Savarese, who pushed back the events on the advice of a medical advisory committee, promised to approach the matter in "a thoughtful, cautious" manner.

"We're going to take a wait-and-see approach," Savarese said Thursday. "We're going to look at it each day and see what data we have."

The LPGA does not plan to cancel its next event in Virginia next week.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	14	8	.636	-
Toronto	15	9	.625	-
New York	12	10	.545	2
Baltimore	9	13	.409	5
Tampa Bay	9	14	.391	5 1/2

Central Division

Chicago	11	9	.550	-
Kansas City	12	10	.545	-
Detroit	11	10	.524	1/2
Minnesota	11	11	.500	1
Cleveland	8	14	.364	4

West Division

Seattle	12	9	.571	-
Texas	10	11	.476	2
Los Angeles	9	12	.429	3
Oakland	8	11	.421	3

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Florida	14	8	.636	-
Philadelphia	11	9	.550	2
Atlanta	10	11	.476	3 1/2
New York	9	12	.429	4 1/2
Washington	5	16	.238	8 1/2

Central Division

St. Louis	16	7	.696	-
Milwaukee	12	10	.545	3 1/2
Cincinnati	11	10	.524	4
Pittsburgh	11	10	.524	4
Chicago	10	11	.476	5
Houston	9	13	.409	6 1/2

West Division

Los Angeles	15	8	.652	-
San Diego	11	11	.500	3 1/2
San Francisco	10	10	.500	3 1/2
Arizona	9	13	.409	5 1/2
Colorado	8	12	.400	5 1/2

Yesterday's Games

Oakland 4, Texas 2
Kansas City 8, Toronto 6
N.Y. Yankees 7, L.A. Angels 4
Tampa Bay 13, Boston 0
St. Louis 9, Washington 4
Florida 8, Chicago Cubs 2, 10 innings
Milwaukee 4, Arizona 1
L.A. Dodgers 8, San Diego 5

QUAIL HOLLOW CHAMPIONSHIP SCORES

FIRST ROUND

Tiger Woods	65
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Phil Mickelson	67
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Retief Goosen	68
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Charles Warren	69
Sean O'Hair	69
Mark Calcavecchia	69
George McNeill	69
Bill Haas	69
Cliff Kresge	69
Ben Crane	70
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Jeff Overton	70
John Rollins	70
Angel Cabrera	70
Will MacKenzie	70
Nathan Green	70
Rod Pampling	70
Michael Allen	70
David Mathis	70
Brendon Todd	70
Jonathan Kaye	70
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John Merrick	70
Kevin Streelman	70
Zach Johnson	70
Anthony Kim	70
Colt Knost	70
Davis Love III	70
Brian Bateman	70
Ted Purdy	70
Gary Woodland	70
Steve Wheatcroft	70
Fredrik Jacobson	71
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Geoff Ogilvy	71
Nick Watney	71
Jim Furyk	71
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Kevin Sutherland	71
Joe Ogilvie	71
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Aron Price	71
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Johnson Wagner	71
Tim Petrovic	71
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Y.E. Yang	72
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Tom Pernice Jr.	72
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Jason Bohn	72
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Andres Romero	73
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Chris DiMarco	74
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Ben Curtis	74
Derek Fathauer	74
Shaun Micheel	74
Michael Letzig	74
Webb Simpson	74
D.A. Points	74
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Rory Sabbatini	74
Pat Perez	74
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Greg Kraft	74
Kirk Triplett	74
Harrison Frazar	74
Peter Tomasulo	74
Aaron Baddeley	75
Stephen Leaney	75
Jay Williamson	75
Jason Gore	75
Ryuji Imada	75
D.J. Trahan	75
Carl Pettersson	75
Notah Begay III	75
Aaron Watkins	75
Heath Slocum	76
Greg Owen	76
Roland Thatcher	76
David Duval	76
Vijay Singh	76
Glen Day	76
Jeev Milkha Singh	76
Curt Sanders	76
Dean Wilson	77
Adam Scott	77
Paul Claxton	77
Spencer Levin	77
Todd Hamilton	78
Billy Mayfair	78
Mark Wilson	78
Casey Wittenberg	78

By The Associated Press

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A Rocball player is seen here going for a kee during a regular season game in the 2008-2009 World Organized Rocball Community League at the Marianas High School Gymnasium. The league will conclude "Gorilla Games" tonight with the Islanders meeting Fanians.

Islanders oust Evenflow in 'Gorilla Games'

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Islanders cut short Evenflow's reign in Gorilla Games in the World Organized Rocball Community League with a 98-81 juiced out win Saturday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

Evenflow ruled Gorilla Games two weeks ago, booting out Ghasias Brothers in overtime, 109-101. Ghasias topped the inaugural Gorilla Games early last month, outlasting the Okies in double overtime,108-84 , before the former bowed to Evenflow.

Evenflow suffered the same fate of failing to keep its hold on to the top spot winning only once against the Islanders in their four-set game.

A 27-21 win in the opening set boosted Evenflow' chances to remain king of Gorilla Games. But the Islanders quickly recovered with a big 25-10 victory in the second set to take the lead at halftime, 46-37.

The opening part of the third set was a neck-and-neck battle with Evenflow scoring back-to-back two-pointers and Islanders answering with a goal.

The third set was tied last at 11-all before the Islanders pulled away en route to a 25-19 win.

Behind by 15 at the end of the third set, 56-71, Evenflow needed to prevail in the fourth set to send the game into overtime or win the fourth set by 16 points to take the outright victory.

With the bragging rights and $50 cash at stake in the game, neither team seemed to give up in the fourth set, which was in a deadlock for the last time at 25-all.

Evenflow had the chance to break the tie when it served for the set, but the Islanders held their ground, receiving the ball and scoring a two-pointer from the backline for a 27-25 win.

Ben Lisua was the game's heavy hitter, firing 18 points on three aces, two goals, two kees, and a xunk.

Ten aces, 18 kees, five goals, and five xunks were scored in Saturday's match.

Gorilla Games is a side event in the Rocball league with the biweekly champion facing new challenger every other Saturday. The losing team has to take a break for a month before returning to action and challenging the reigning titlist.

Teams need not to pay entrance fees to join Gorilla Games. Challengers only have to register at the MHS Gymnasium from Monday to Thursday from 5pm to 7pm.

For more information, contact Rocball creator James Feger at 237-3235.

NMC

From Page 28

NMC shut out Finance in Game 1, 14-0, and capped its impressive season with an equally easy 25-10 victory in Game 2. NMC also won the season's pennant, finishing the regular season with a 10-2 mark before losing to Finance in the winner's bracket semifinals.

Finance failed to capitalize on its twice-to-beat advantage in the finals, as they struggled both on offense and defense.

In Game 1, the best that Finance could do was reach first base. Finance hit a lot a fly balls, and NMC outfielders were quick to catch them.

In Game 2, Finance batters improved a bit, but it was the team's loose defense and fielding errors that allowed NMC to pull away and complete the finals sweep.

Finance got off to a good start with Lenice Kapileo, Liz Lebria, and Pauline Tudela reaching home plate at the top of the first inning.

But NMC still took the lead, 4-3, after one complete inning with Kuki Pangelinan hitting a solo homer and her three other teammates also scoring.

NMC never looked back from thereon, as its batters continued making ground hits, while Finance defenders were either a step slower to pick up the ball or had butterfingers.

With Finance playing sluggish defense, NMC scored five runs each in the second and third innings, made seven in the fourth, and added three in the fifth before its first three batters in the sixth flied out.

Finance's first three batters in the second inning were thrown out before Lilian Aguon and Tudela nailed one run each in the third. Finance was shutout, anew in the fourth and fifth innings before Tudela scored her third run in the game, while Julie Guerrero tallied one in the sixth inning.

At the top of the seventh, Finance needed at least 19 runs to keep its title bid alive. But it was not up for the big task, as Finance only scored four runs on Tudela's two-run single, Lebria's one-run double, and on an NMC error.

FOUR

From Page 28

the Capital Hill Ballfield.

In Game 2, DCCA connected on seven homers with Julian Camacho and Pete Tomokane drilling two homers apiece and Mel Sakisat, Jun Saralu, and Peter Camacho nailing one each.

DCCA did not start hitting homers until the bottom of the third inning, allowing Beach Boys to have their only taste of the lead after two innings, 1-0.

Beach Boys' four other runs came from one homer each from second baseman Mel Aldan and first baseman B.J. Sablan. But these round-trippers came when the match was already decided, as Sakisat repeatedly frustrated Beach Boys' batters, specifically the hard-hitting Sablan.

In the deciding Game 2, DCCA picked up where it left off, as Julian Camacho and company continued showering the playing field with homers..

Julian homered in his first three trips at bat and finished 4-for-4 at the plate. He had six RBIs and scored four runs in Game 2.

Sakisat, Tomokane, Joey Dela Cruz, Peter Camacho, and Jon Tenorio chipped in one home runs apiece, as DCCA walked away with a five-run win.

Craig Sanchez led off for DCCA in Game 1 and singled. He later reached home plate on a Julian Camacho two-run homer. DCCA went on to add tree more at the top of the first.

Beach Boys answered with a six-run bottom of the first, highlighted by Sablan's two-run homer. But that was the only time Beach Boys challenged DCCA, as the latter's defense tightened up in the succeeding innings and Sakisat returned to his shrewd pitching. The DCCA pitcher walked Sablan in his last two stints at the plate.

PACQUIAO

From Page 28

that there is talk about him running for president when he gets out of boxing. But while the Pacman was always huge at home, it wasn't until he stopped De La Hoya that many in boxing began giving him his due as the best pound-for-pound fighter in the game.

It's a mythical title, but Pacquiao has won enough real titles to justify his coronation. Though the Hatton fight is for a lightly regarded crown, winning at 140 pounds will mean Pacquiao has won titles in six weight divisions, beginning at 112 pounds.

British boxer Ricky Hatton attends a news conference at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas, Wednesday, April 29, 2009. Hatton will fight Manny Pacquiao, of the Philippines, in a junior welterweight boxing match in Las Vegas on Saturday, May 2.

British boxer Ricky Hatton att…

"If that happens, people will want to put my name in boxing history and that will be my legacy," Pacquiao said.

The two fighters got together Wednesday for the final pre-fight press conference at the MGM Grand hotel-casino, where both had spectacular performances the last time they were in the ring. For Pacquiao it was the win over De La Hoya, but Hatton showed off some himself a few weeks earlier by stopping Paulie Malignaggi in front of thousands of his ever-singing fans.

Hatton's only loss came when he was stopped by Floyd Mayweather Jr. in the 10th round of their December 2007 fight, and his record and fan base were enough to get him a guarantee of $8 million for the scheduled 12-round bout.

"Manny has not fought anybody that's going to put as much pressure on him with as much force and strength and power and hand speed," Hatton said. "I'd like to think I'll be too much for him, but I think it's going to a wonderful fight."

Promoters claim the fight has already sold out the 15,000-seat arena at the MGM and are selling closed circuit viewing at other Las Vegas hotels. They're also hopeful that even an ailing economy won't stop people from spending 50 bucks to order the fight on pay-per-view, perhaps with a few friends.

But the two fighters have largely avoided the kind of trash talk that normally happens before big fights, leaving that to others in their camps. For Pacquiao that means trainer Freddie Roach, and for Hatton it's his new trainer, Floyd Mayweather Jr., the estranged father of the only fighter to beat him.

Mayweather read a poem he wrote about the fight Wednesday and did his best to taunt Roach. But Roach maintained his manners, for what promoter Bob Arum said was a good reason.

It wasn't just because Pacquiao's mother was in attendance in her first trip to the United States to see her son fight for the first time. No, even in boxing sometimes there must be some decorum of sorts.

"The trainer (Roach) is training a future president of the Philippines," Arum said. "The people sitting here are already campaigning to be in the cabinet."

PROS

From Page 28

money available then it is a no-brainer that MVA should renew XTERRA Saipan for another two years.

"We would like to do XTERRA again next year. The athletes, especially those from off-island, want to see it again," he added.

He said everyone, from five-time XTERRA Saipan and two-time Tagaman champion Renata Bucher of Switzerland, to first-timer Arland Macasieb of the Philippines, to local triathletes like Mieko Carey and Bucth Sublemente want another crack at XTERRA Saipan in 2010.

The former president of the Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association said XTERRA Saipan, and to a lesser extent the Tagaman, has also gained a good following the past several years for pros unable to train in their home countries.

"They see this as a good training ground. In Europe, in Japan, and probably in Korea, it's cold right now, there's very little sun. Half of them cannot really train outside because everything has to be indoors. That's why a number of triathletes came here and in Guam and spent the last three weeks to train."

Sakovich, who along with wife Jean is a co-founder of the Saipan Swim Club, was the islands' foremost sports event organizer for three decades before moving to Hilo, Hawaii in 2005.

"If we get the money, we will try to do both. We would like to do both. My personal opinion—it's basically fact—'hey I want to compete in XTERRA Saipan because it's a qualifier to the Worlds' (XTERRA World Championships). Coming to Saipan to do Tagaman is what? It's prestige, 'hey we did Tagaman' and that's it."

If given a choice between the two, however, Sakovich said he will lean toward funding for XTERRA Saipan.

"To be honest with you, it's easier to promote XTERRA because it's a world qualifier. Tagaman is Tagaman, it's an event in itself. So it makes it harder to promote. If we have to do one event, we're better off doing XTERRA—as much as I hate to say it because Tagaman is my event," he said.

Moving forward

For Mojica, who lost several pounds by organizing the twin events the past three weeks, the 2009 Saipan Sports Fest helped showcase the CNMI to the rest of the world—not only to the triathlon community.

"We believe that the 2009 Saipan Sportsfest was a very successfully executed event with two fabulous races and a great show of Saipan hospitality to the off-island participants," he said.

Wolf said Taga, Inc. has tentatively scheduled XTERRA Saipan for March 13, 2010 with the Tagaman following on March 20, 2010.

"We are planning on having XTERRA University for both Japanese speaking and English speaking participants as well," he said.

The DFS Saipan assistant general manager said Taga, Inc. will try to tie lose ends evident in the 2009 edition of the Sports Fest to make the 2010 staging even better.

"Promoting the event is one area where we need to improve and we are going to rely more heavy on linking with other events online and to do more Internet promotions. We are in the process of preparing an informational flyer that can go with any athletes traveling off-island to take and pass out at any events they might be participating in," he said.

He said Tagaman will also undergo a makeover next year as Taga, Inc. decided to shorten the course in both the bike and the run.

"We will drop the Koblerville Loop from the bike (which is about three miles) and we will make the run a 10K instead of a 15K moving the turn around to Quartermaster Road," he said.

Mojica also thanked MVA, Pacific Island Club, IT&E, Coca-Cola, Subway, Glimpses of Saipan, Foremost, Docomo Pacific, DFS Galleria, all the volunteers, all the aid station sponsors, and the property owners on the XTERRA trail for their support and permission for making the 2009 Saipan Sports Fest a success.

Islanders oust Evenflow in 'Gorilla Games'

The Islanders cut short Evenflow's reign in Gorilla Games in the World Organized Rocball Community League with a 98-81 juiced out win Saturday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium. 27

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Bulls beat Celtics in 3 OTs, force Game 7

One more thriller, and now, the Chicago Bulls and Boston Celtics will play a decisive seventh game. 25

Four in a row for DCCA

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Beach Boys paid a big price for foiling Department of Community and Cultural Affairs' bid for an undefeated season in the Budweiser 2008-2009 Inter-Government/Business Slow-pitch Softball League.

Still hounded by their 7-20 loss to Beach Boys in the winner's bracket semifinals, DCCA retaliated with killer wins Thursday night, giving the latter its fourth straight championship.

DCCA wiped out Beach Boys' twice-to-beat advantage in the finals, winning Games 1 (28-5) and 2 (16-11), convincingly to extend their reign in the league.

Home runs from DCCA sluggers were flying on both games and Beach Boys outfielders could only watch haplessly, as balls went over the fence of

See FOUR on Page 27

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Members of DCCA pose with their championship trophy after beating Beach Boys in the finals of the Budweiser 2008 Inter-Government/Business Slow-pitch Softball League Thursday night at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

MARK RABAGO

Bill Sakovich, left, and JTL Timing's Jim Lovell at the finish line of the Tagaman Triathlon last April 25.

Pros want XTERRA Saipan back next year

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

With its two-year "licensing" contract for the XTERRA Saipan Championship up for renewal in 2010, the Marianas Visitors Authority is once again faced with the difficult decision on whether to bring back or not the crown jewel of the XTERRA Global Tour.

But if you ask organizers and triathletes who have experienced the double dose of XTERRA Saipan and the following weekend's Tagaman Triathlon, the answer is an overwhelming yes.

Bill Sakovich, who along with Taga, Inc. president Wolf Mojica took over organizational control of XTERRA Saipan from Team Unlimited in 2008, said if there is

See PROS on Page 27

NMC *takes women's tiara*

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

NMC Proa won its title showdown with Finance to rule the women's division of the Budweiser 2008 Inter-Government/Business Slow-pitch Softball League Thursday night at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

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Members and supporters of NMC Proa pose for a group photo after downing Finance in the women's finals of the Budweiser 2008 Inter-Government/Business Slow-pitch Softball League Thursday night at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Pacquiao and Hatton ready for big fight

By TIM DAHLBERG
AP BOXING WRITER

LAS VEGAS (AP)—There's only one Ricky Hatton, as his admirers constantly sing to anyone who will listen. Good thing, because if there were any more Ricky Hattons his devoted followers in England might never have time to do anything but sing.

The problem for Hatton is there's also only one pound-for-pound champion in boxing. His name is Manny Pacquiao, and all he did his last time out was give Oscar De La Hoya such a beating that De La Hoya decided it was time to retire.

That fight not only introduced Pacquiao to a lot of casual boxing fans, but prompted oddsmakers to make him a 2-1 favorite when he and Hatton meet Saturday night in a 140-pound fight that is the first big bout of the post-De La Hoya era. Despite the lopsided odds, both Hatton and his fans fervently believe he will be the one with his gloves raised when the fight finally ends.

"I've been here before," Hatton said. "People say (I'm) over-hyped, over-protected, a fat, beer-drinking Englishman. Well, I'm going to shock the world again."

A Hatton win might not be quite enough to shock the world, but it would deal a blow to the Philippines, where Pacquiao is such a national hero

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British boxer Ricky Hatton, right, and Manny Pacquiao, of the Philippines, pose for photos during a news conference at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas, Wednesday, April 29, 2009. The two will fight in a junior welterweight boxing match in Las Vegas on Saturday, May 2.

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